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Campaigners fight to keep hold of town's open spaces

By George Welch

DOZENS of furious Didcot residents gathered at the Cornerstone Arts Centre last week to protest over plans of the Didcot Garden Town project to eat into the town's green spaces.

More than 30 incensed campaigners assembled on Thursday to demand the protection of Ladygrove's green spaces.

A draft masterplan outlining the garden town project was released last week and planners published further proposals on Monday.

The group congregated outside a meeting where South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils asked local stakeholder representatives to comment on the masterplan.

This includes looking at building on the recreation ground, lakes, mounds, primary school field, football club, leisure centre and health centre sites.

As part of the plans, there are recommendations for schools, health centres and other services. There is also a proposed Technology Institute.

This, planners say, has "the potential to make Didcot a centre of excellence for the research and development in advanced technologies".

The institute would be the focal point of a technology campus that would include homes for people working there.

Overall, as part of the Didcot Garden Town Status programme, the town is to welcome 15,000 new homes to its doorstep.

According to developers, the garden town proposals, once implemented, would lead to "an increase of almost four times the current amount of publicly available open space".

Plans also include the construction of a new road between Didcot station and Harwell science centre, including the use of new technology – such as traffic signals that talk to each other – to help manage traffic flow.

Protesters said the plans would "blight the estate with extra traffic", cause "intolerable" congestion around the Ladygrove Park primary school and "threaten' Didcot's facilities, green spaces and paths".

Planners say the main features of the new-look town would include a better connected town centre with safe cycle routes to multiple locations, including the Harwell Campus, Mowbray Fields nature reserve, Didcot Parkway, allotments, Culham, and a new leisure centre in the north east of the town.

A Facebook page called 'Save Didcot's Amenities and Green Spaces on Ladygrove' has been set up to contest the scheme.

The group was refused representation at the stakeholder meeting because they are not a formal group with a role in delivering the project.

A petition protesting the plans has also been set up and has 861 signatures to date.

John Cotton, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "The Didcot community has been very enthusiastic in telling us what they want from

• Continues on page 3

• Didcot residents outside the Cornerstone on Thursday last week protesting at plans for the green spaces on Ladygrove

• The plans for Didcot Garden Town

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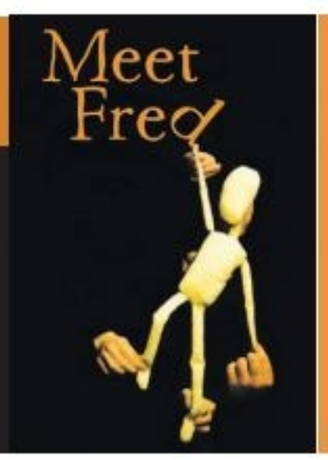

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£875,000 offered to help daytime services

By Eva Astreinidou

NEW financial aid worth £875,000 has been proposed to help transition the daytime support services in Oxfordshire that are in need or are innovating in the community.

The financial schemes go hand in hand with the decision taken on Tuesday by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to reduce the 22 building-based centres to eight locations across the county.

Of the total amount in financial aid, £650,000 is temporary funding and £225,000 is permanent.

The new scheme comes as a result of consultations that took place during November and December involving more than 1,000 responses to the proposals of the new structure.

Due to providers asking for more time, the voluntary sector would also receive a boost of £550,000 in a transition fund for services who receive grant funding from the council – this will then fall to £300,000 in 2017/18 and £250,000 in 2018/19.

The council would target the funding at those services that would be "unsustainable without it" in areas of high need, but will also help services that "wish to innovate" through new services.

Daytime support services can bid for the grant pot if they fall into these two categories.

A new proposal has also been set forth for annual personal budgets given to carers.

The council provided more than 1,800 carers between £200 to £600 a year.

After discussions to discontinue this scheme in attempts to save money, the council has proposed this amount changes to £300, and that it is targeted at those carers with the highest needs.

In addition, the council will be investing £25,000 a year in training for services around dementia and autism.

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We want to ensure these [daytime support] services can continue on a solid footing for the future.

"We recognise that the period of change will be difficult and there will be support from experienced, skilled staff through that process.

"We are confident that the new services will provide tailored support to meet needs."

Cat saved after getting its head trapped in jar

A KITTEN in Oxford got itself into a sticky situation when its head became stuck in a peanut butter jar.

Animal welfare charity RSPCA was called by a member of the public who found the black and white cat struggling to escape.

It was thought to be no more than six months old, and was found in Tilbury Lane on January 21.

RSPCA inspector Jaime Godfrey said: "The kitten had his head completely stuck inside a plastic pot of peanut butter.

"When I arrived he was lying in a heap on the grass with frost covering his fur."

The cat was wrapped in a towel while Mr Godfrey cut away the plastic around the cat's head.

He said: "As soon as the cat was free he ran away very fast. He was obviously shaken up."

He warned: "It is very important that people remember to clean out their old pots and jars to prevent attracting animals.

"Thankfully this cat was OK, but he might not have been so lucky if the man who called us had not spotted him."

Pictures: RSPCA

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• Pictures: Abingdon MoreInCommon

Protesters call for President Trump to put unity first

By Eva Astreinidou

JUST hours before Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States, protesters displayed a banner on Abingdon Bridge as part of countrywide action for equality and solidarity.

Banners were unfurled across the country on Friday, with supporters of the campaign flocking to London Bridge, Waterloo Bridge, and many other sites.

The groups Abingdon MoreInCommon and Abingdon Peace Group also took part, and unveiled their banner at 10am.

The groups released a joint statement, which said: "We unfurled symbolic banners at Abingdon Bridge as an antidote to the fear and division that Trump represents.

"We believe in building bridges to bring people together, rather than walls to keep us apart.

"Although we don't have a vote, the actions of the US President will have a massive impact on Europe and on our world. All are welcome to stand for justice, solidarity, equality and hope."

Emma Beacham from the Abingdon MoreInCommon group said: "This isn't just about Donald Trump.

"Mainstream media and establishment politicians on both sides of the Atlantic are helping to create a new norm where bigotry and extreme right wing views and language are becoming accepted as an everyday part of life."

The #MoreInCommon campaign was initiated after the death of MP Jo Cox who was killed in her Batley & Spen constituency in June, in response to the rise in racism and division during and after the EU referendum campaign.

Oxford Stand Up to Racism and supporters joined international protests to coincide with the inauguration by holding their own protest Friday afternoon at Carfax Tower, Oxford.

Ian McKendrick, from Stand Up To Racism, said: "Trump's hate speech has helped to create a climate where black, Latino, Muslims and women can be treated as objects of abuse.

"When one of the most powerful people in the world can make these pronouncements, there is a risk these dangerous attitudes will become normalised."

Plans to build on Ladygrove's green spaces revealed

• From front page

a Garden Town.

"Their input will ensure we can deliver a truly innovative scheme that will offer the housing, jobs and the infrastructure we need to make Didcot a wonderful place to live, work and invest."

One former resident opposed the scheme, saying Didcot's historical value should be protected.

He said: "I appreciate the historic legacy represented by the Great Western Society in the Railway Centre, which includes Grade 1 listed structures and several parts of the National Collection in terms of Railway history, which is so much a part of Didcot's history.

"Any opportunities there should be for the continued preservation and enhancement of that site, which helps keep Didcot a destination for visitors."

The final draft Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan will be published for public consultation this spring and will be followed by a six-week consultation.

Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "The draft proposals give residents of Didcot and the surrounding villages a first glimpse into how great Didcot Garden Town could be.

"These plans are truly innovative, offering a first class shopping experience, with more places to eat and drink, safe cycling routes, green spaces and new business opportunities."

SODC defines a garden town as "a town that will provide affordable homes, schools and jobs whilst preserving the countryside around Didcot and a comfortable way of life".

To find out more about the garden town, visit tinyurl.com/huey6jx

News Bites

Tools stolen

DIDCOT: Police are appealing for witnesses following thefts from vans in Didcot and Cholsey.

Between 5pm last Thursday and 7am on Friday, offenders broke into a silver Ford Transit on Barnes Road, Didcot and stole tools.

Between 5.15pm and 11.52pm on Thursday, two Ford Transits on Kentwood Close, Cholsey had power tools stolen from them.

Call 101 with information.

Brexit meeting

DIDCOT: A Brexit Public Meeting hosted by Didcot's MP Ed Vaizey will be held at Didcot Civic Hall on February 3.

Mr Vaizey said: "Before the end of March, Theresa May will formally invoke Article 50 and our negotiations to leave the European Union will begin.

"These negotiations will impact us all, and with that in mind, I will be holding public meetings to hear my constituent's views and concerns."

The meeting starts at 7pm.

Ride for charity

DIDCOT: An indoor cycling challenge to ride the distance from John O'Groats to Land's End, a distance of 874 miles, will kick off at Newbury Building Society's Abingdon and Didcot branches from February 6.

Money raised will go to Oxford hospice Helen & Douglas House, to help young people with life-shortening conditions.

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22 arrested in drugs raids to tackle organised crime

By George Welch

POLICE executed 21 warrants during dawn raids on Tuesday as Thames Valley Police (TVP) launched Operation Stronghold as part of a crack down on serious organised crime.

The operation, the result of a year-long investigation by TVP's Serious Organised Crime Unit, has been fashioned to tackle crime groups operating across county lines to deal drugs, including crack cocaine and heroin.

Ten homes in Oxford, two in Abingdon and 11 in London were stormed simultaneously by 180 officers in the early hours.

Four women and 18 men aged 21 to 76 were arrested – 15 of the 22 were arrested in Oxfordshire.

They all remain in custody.

Elder Way, Copse Lane, Henry Taunt Close, Hurst Street, Rymers Lane, Dunnock Way, Beckett Street, Medhurst Way, Cumberland Road and Dene Road were raided in Oxford.

The two addresses in Abingdon were Austen Place and Bath Street.

Detective Superintendent Gill Wootton said: "Stronghold is Thames Valley Police making a commitment to seeing a reduction in levels of serious and organised crime in our region.

"We cannot achieve this alone and so will be working closely with our partners to achieve better knowledge sharing and suitable resourcing to disrupt and prevent the work of organised crime gangs and provide safeguarding to the innocent victims caught up in the middle.

"Nobody knows their streets, cities, towns and villages better than the people who live and work there. If they see something happening that is out of place, they know they can contact us and it will be dealt with seriously."

Deputy LPA Commander for Oxford City LPA, Chief Inspector Marc Tarbit, added that the force is "working closely with partners" to offer support to drug users and to stop the demand for drugs in Oxfordshire.

More information about Stronghold will be released by TVP in the coming weeks and months.

■ The following 22 people were arrested as a result of Operation Stronghold and remain in custody as we went to press on Wednesday afternoon:

- Two 21-year-old men of Earlom House, Islington.
- A 23-year-old woman of Elder Way, Greater Leys.
- A 23-year-old man of Roma Road, Ilford, London.
- A 24-year-old man of Mayfield Road, Dagenham
- A 26-year-old man of Elder Way, Greater Leys, Oxford.
- A 26-year-old man of Dene Road, Lye Valley.
- A 26-year-old man of Woodstock Avenue, Southall, London.
- A 26-year-old man from Roma Road, Ilford, London.
- A 26-year-old man of Medhurst Way, Littlemore.
- A 27-year-old woman of Willow Brook, Abingdon.
- A 27-year-old male of no fixed address.
- A 29-year-old man of Bath Street, Abingdon.
- A 32-year-old man, a 30-year-old man and a 76-year-old man of Hurst Street, East Oxford.
- A 32-year-old man of Dunnock Way, Greater Leys.
- A 33-year-old woman of Henry Taunt Close, Barton.
- A 37-year-old man of Salesian Gardens, Cowley.
- A 40-year-old man of Rymers Lane, Cowley.
- A 40-year-old man of Cumberland Road, East Oxford.
- A 41-year-old woman from Bath Street, Abingdon.

Pictures: Thames Valley Police

Burglars jailed over robberies

TWO men have been sentenced to nearly two years in jail following a burglary and a theft from a car in Thame.

Adam Coaker, 35, of Peppard Road, Emmer Green, was sentenced to 21 months in prison for the burglary offence and four months in prison for the theft from a vehicle, to run concurrently.

Graham Aitken, 53, of Southcote Lane, Reading, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

The pair were involved in a burglary at a commercial car garage on Lupton Road and a theft from a car in which a registration plate was stolen on Grenville Road, both in Thame, on December 17, 2015.

Both men were charged on December 18, 2015 and convicted on November 16 2016.

Coaker, who pleaded guilty at the beginning of the trial, was sentenced on December 6 and Aitken, who was found guilty by a jury was sentenced on Thursday last week.

Both men appeared at Oxford Crown Court.

Investigating officer PC David Simpkins, formally of South and Vale Local CID, said: "The crimes committed by both men took place just before Christmas, when the victims should have been enjoying the festive period, not having to deal with the repercussions of these offences."

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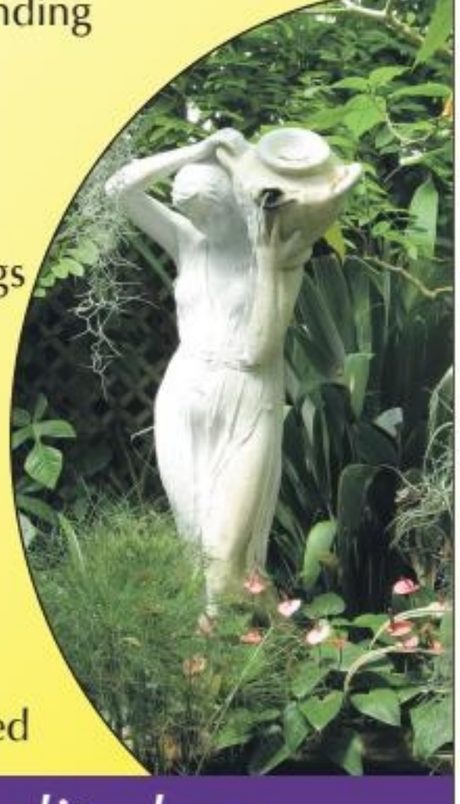
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Picture: Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Motorist airlifted to hospital after horror crash

A MOTORIST was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries after a collision involving two vehicles in North Oxfordshire on Tuesday morning.

The collision on Cropredy Lawn Road caused one of the cars to end up on its side with the casualty trapped inside.

A man who was wearing a high visibility jacket was believed to have left the scene.

Sgt Mark Scully, from the Joint Operations Unit for Roads Policing, said: "I would like to trace the person who left one of the vehicles as soon as possible as he may have serious injuries which require medical attention."

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service worked with South Central Ambulance Service to stabilise the car and free the driver.

Anyone who witnessed the collision should contact the Police enquiry centre on 101.

Average grade for counties' schools in a new-style league

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE'S secondary schools have performed averagely in new-style league tables published in England for the first time.

Until this year, secondary school performance has been judged mainly by what proportion of pupils get five GCSEs at grade A*-C, including key subjects such as English and maths.

But in a confusing twist, two new measures, known as Attainment 8 and Progress 8, have been adopted by the government to judge whether schools are performing adequately.

Put simplistically, Progress 8 aims to measure how well schools serve their pupils by looking at where they started and where they end up in terms of grades and ranks them, compared to other state schools, with scores generally falling somewhere between -1 and 1.

The number is placed into one of five bands ranging from well below average to well above average.

Attainment 8, meanwhile, is about the raw results across individual pupils' best eight subjects.

These changes were implemented after teachers and heads complained that judging a school by its results in five GCSEs alone was unfair.

With the publication of results last week, 282 secondary schools across the country are deemed to be failing by the government.

With Progress 8 data available for 37 schools across Oxfordshire, which has 5,975 secondary school pupils, the county recorded a score of 0.01, which is about average.

Just one school – The Oxford Academy – received a score 'well above average', with 10 'above average', while seven were below average, and two – Woodeaton Manor and Swalcliffe Park – scored 'well below average', the lowest grade.

Top 10 secondary schools in Oxfordshire			
1	The Oxford Academy	0.80	Well above national average
2	The Cherwell School, Oxford	0.49	Above national average
3	Gillotts School, Henley	0.40	Above national average
4	Didcot Girls' School	0.38	Above national average
5	Langtree School, Woodcote	0.36	Above national average
6	Oxford Spires Academy	0.26	Above national average
7	Wallingford School	0.22	Above national average
8	Blessed George Napier, Banbury	0.19	Above national average
9	Faringdon Community College	0.19	Above national average
10	Bartholomew School, Witney	0.19	Above national average

Bottom 10 secondary schools in Oxfordshire			
28	Fitzharrys School, Abingdon	-0.20	Average
29	Cheney School, Oxford	-0.25	Below national average
30	Gosford Hill, Oxford	-0.27	Below national average
31	St Gregory the Great Catholic, Oxford	-0.29	Below national average
32	Larkmead School, Abingdon	-0.29	Below national average
33	John Mason School, Abingdon	-0.31	Below national average
34	The Bicester School	-0.33	Below national average
35	Chiltern Edge Community School	-0.40	Below national average
36	Woodeaton Manor School, Oxford	-1.03	Well below national average
37	Swalcliffe Park School Trust, Banbury	-1.81	Well below national average

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Proposal to merge councils into one and share services to save £100m

By Eva Astreinidou

SHARED services and functions and fewer councillors are just some of the proposals raised by Oxfordshire county councillors which revealed the move could save £400,000 a week.

'One Oxfordshire' discussed merging services and functions between the six councils and working together across party lines towards a saving target of £100m over five years.

The changing structure will mean a reduction in the number of councillors to 100-125 from 282, leading to £4.7m in savings.

Each councillor would be a single point of contact, and Area Executive boards would have formal decision-making powers to address local priorities, with each area represented on the unitary council's cabinet.

The re-structure also means community points such as libraries, leisure centres, fire stations and health facilities would have more joined up services.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, county council Conservative leader, said at the meeting on Wednesday last week: "This is a once in a generation chance to improve local government in Oxfordshire and deliver better services to residents, a real fresh start for the county that works for everyone."

Councillor Richard Webber, of the Liberal Democrat party, said: "This is an all-party initiative. There are a number of areas we don't agree on but with this particular initiative, we are all passionately behind it.

"There are an overwhelming number of positive reasons why a single Oxfordshire council that makes the best possible savings will deliver a simpler council structure, providing better services to residents at much lower cost, and in the end, more local services too."

Labour councillor Liz Brighouse expressed concern over recent cuts to social care services: "Since I've joined local government I have seen the money available for [children and families] services being eroded, particularly in the last few years – and each year virtually sweating blood because you know the difference to families when those services are reduced.

"So I see this as a way to get better services for our communities, a way of joining up our social care benefits so people can get the services they need."

She added: "I hear a lot of people and their problems and it's a lot of 'well actually you have to go to the county council to sort that,' or 'well actually that's a city council function,' we need to bring all those city functions together."

Grant Thornton, an independent accounting and consultancy firm, found the single authority would be the most cost-effective, and has estimated a further £20m annual saving.

The 'One Oxfordshire' plan would be set in place within 18 months.

• *Councillors Richard Webber, Liz Brighouse and Ian Hudspeth together presenting the proposals for One Oxfordshire*

F1 teams take each other on in challenge

LOCAL Formula One teams took part in a head-to-head endurance race simulation challenge at The Race Hut Oxford, which saw McLaren cross the finishing line in first place.

The seven teams to take part were McLaren Honda, Mercedes AMG Petronas, Red Bull Racing, Scuderia Torro Rosso, Sahara Force India, Williams Martini Racing and Manor Racing.

Racers from different departments, including aero, strategy, electronics, simulation - and even accounts – took to the track.

Competitors raced around the Italian circuit Mugello, and the teams competed in a class of race cars called GTE, a mix of iconic sports cars including BMW, Porsche, Ferrari, Corvette and Aston Martin.

The contest was a 90-minute endurance race and teams selected different strategies.

The Race Hut manager Rich Weaving said: "The event was the first of our 'Inter Industry Challenges' where we invite companies from the same industry to take part in a team endurance event against each other.

"As we're in F1 valley, we couldn't think of a better start with local F1 teams."

Accountants are the next to take on the challenge. Contact The Race Hut at theracehut.com or call 01865 771556.

• *Competitors in the F1 teams challenge at the Race Hut in Oxford*

Link road will help reduce congestion

By Eva Astreinidou

THE £11.8m Harwell Link Road project promises to boost Oxfordshire county's transport system.

The work which began on January 19 will connect the B4493 to the A417, and will help improve access and reduce local congestion by providing more route options.

This main phase of work is due to be completed in spring 2018.

The development has been welcomed by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and the project is part funded by their Access to Enterprise Zone funding programme.

It is also funded from City Deal and Oxfordshire County Council's transport capital budget.

Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of OxLEP, says: "More than 5,000 people work within the Harwell site every day so this project is of great importance, as it will deliver an array of benefits to those currently living and working in the area.

"In future, we expect more businesses to move to this prime location, boosting local employment opportunities, and with new housing developments planned for the area, improvements to the road networks now are imperative.

"Not only will this ease the flow of traffic in and out of the area, but it will also help to relieve daily through-traffic for local residents."

The project will relieve Harwell village of through-traffic by 250 trips per hour.

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith, Cabinet member for Environment and Transport at the Oxfordshire County Council, said: "You will start to see the project take shape in the coming weeks now that the preparation is done and the crew move on to the bigger jobs.

"They are making good progress."

Initial traffic management measures have been put in place and use of temporary lights began yesterday, along with a temporary speed restriction of 30mph.

• Work set to begin on the Harwell link road

• Picture: Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Eve to go on display at museum

RARE Jurassic sea reptiles including a long-necked plesiosaur by the name 'Eve' could soon go on display in Oxford after the Museum of Natural History successfully won a grant of £90,000 from a museums and galleries improvement fund.

The museum is the recipient of one of 39 grants, totalling £4 million, which have been awarded to improve displays and facilities at museums and galleries across England.

The DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund will help the museum display 'Eve', discovered in a Cambridgeshire quarry in 2015.

'Eve' will be displayed in new cases with new artwork and digital content alongside another plesiosaur, of the short-necked variety, discovered near Oxford in the 1990s.

Museum director Professor Paul Smith said the displays would "reinvigorate" the museum by exhibiting "two internationally-significant fossil marine reptiles".

He said: "We are very grateful to DCMS/Wolfson for this funding.

"The museum is now looking for matched funding to complete the project."

The exhibit will present a picture of central England 165 million years ago, submerged 50 metres underwater in a shallow sea, teeming with animals that are now extinct.

Announcing the awards, Matt Hancock, minister for digital and culture, said: "Our museums and galleries are among the best in the world and we should be rightly proud of these institutions.

"We want people to be able to enjoy world-leading culture wherever they live and whatever their background.

"These grants will make an important contribution toward increasing access to their wonderful collections and improving the visitor experience at museums right across the country.

"I applaud the Wolfson Foundation's generosity in once again matching the Government's investment pound for pound in this important work."

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MUST END TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY

Many thousands of thanks from charity's founder

Last week we announced that Didcot-based Play2Give was our charity of the year 2017, here we look at how Andrew Baker came to set up the cause which is now celebrating its 10th anniversary

The Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year – Play2Give

HAVING received treatment for a brain injury at the age of 12, Andrew Baker decided he wanted to give something back to say thank you.

His fundraising efforts started 15 years ago when he was a pupil at St Birinus School in Didcot and with their help he began what has become a labour of love for him and led to the setting up of Play2Give (P2G) in 2007.

Now in it's 10th anniversary year - like Oxford Children's Hospital which he has supported ever since it opened – it has raised thousands through having fun.

Other local causes have benefitted over the 10 years, including Footsteps Foundation and SpecialEffect as well as one close to Andrew's heart – Headway Oxfordshire.

This is P2G's secondary key charity which supports around 450 adults with brain injuries and their carers. Andrew himself has attended as part of his rehabilitation having been born with a brain injury.

Last year P2G surpassed its £40,000 target for the children's hospital and now has a room named after it on the teenage ward.

This year the charity aims to raise £10,000 for the children's hospital and Headway Oxfordshire – it wants to help contribute towards building a parent accommodation block at the JR site while funds for Headway will add to the county's first neurological physiotherapy gym.

Fundraising began with P2G's most notable event, a football tournament at Abingdon's Tilsley Park which attracted 19 teams. The event has grown considerably since then and has raised more than £36,000 of the total £52,000 donated over the years.

A variety of other events have followed over the years, including a disco with sponsored doughnut eating, dressing up and bake offs.

In November 2015 P2G won the Best Fundraising Award in the Didcot Business & Community Awards and was shortlisted again last year.

Last year also saw P2G's biggest ever Sleigh2Give campaign which resulted in more than 3,000 toys and gifts being given to children in the hospital over Christmas and their siblings.

■ Next week we'll be telling you about some of the fundraising activities P2G have planned for this year and how you can get involved and help them raise even more and make their 10th anniversary extra special.

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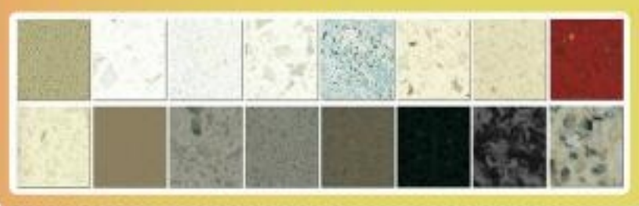

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Firecrew help out in winter weather

By George Welch

• The fire service have helped out during the bad weather Pictures: Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

FIRECREWS from Oxfordshire have been lending a hand to other emergency services across the country following bad weather and rising sea levels.

A convoy from Banbury Fire Station travelled to Norfolk at 5am on January 13 to aid emergency teams in East Anglia as part of a wider national response to the rising sea levels on the east coast.

The specialist team from north Oxfordshire helped alleviate excess water with its high volume pumping equipment, capable of pumping 7,000 litres of water per minute over a distance of 3 kms.

Amongst snow ploughs and in difficult weather conditions, the team stopped en route to Norwich to rescue a motorist who had driven off the road down an embankment.

When in Norwich, a base was established to brief and distribute teams and the Oxfordshire crew joined rescue boat teams from Nottingham, West Midlands, Hereford & Worcester and Northamptonshire.

Briefings throughout the day prepared the teams for a high spring tide and a storm surge funnelling down the North Sea threatened to increase water levels a metre above the maximum height.

The storm threatened to breach coastal defences with Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft areas of particular concern.

But, when the peak-times arrived, wind speeds fell and the levels along the coast were two inches lower than expected.

Damage to the area was minimal, the fire service said.

Assistant chief fire officer Rob MacDougall said: "As well as providing a fire and rescue service to our local communities, the Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service is an integral part of the national resilience model to support the entire UK.

"Our firefighters are always prepared to support such deployments even though they often take them away from their families at short notice.

"I am very glad on this occasion that the weather and tides weren't as severe as they could have been and that everyone has returned safely from an largely uneventful journey."

Olympian puts her oar in to charity row

THE Great Row is coming to Oxford as part of the Cancer Research UK Boat Races.

People can join in the fundraising rowing challenge by going solo or can complete the challenge as part of a team in the run up to this year's Boat Races.

The distances can vary from 2,000 metres up to a full marathon and should be covered on an indoor rowing machine and completed during 'Challenge Week', a week before the Boat Races take place on April 2.

The event is part of Cancer Research UK's three-year partnership with the renowned Oxford & Cambridge Boat Races.

Olympic rowing champion and member of Leander Club in Henley, Helen Glover, who is supporting The Great Row, said: "The Great Row is flexible and includes a challenge to suit every level, whether you've never used a rowing machine before or you think you might win an Olympic medal one day.

"On top of being a fantastic fitness motivator, it's a good way to support Cancer Research UK's work.

"Last year was a huge success and it would be brilliant to see even more people get into rowing and doing their bit to beat cancer."

Cancer Research UK has partnered up with David Lloyd Clubs, giving event competitors access to their clubs across the country every Friday throughout March.

Jenny Makin, Cancer Research UK spokesperson, said: "By taking part and raising vital funds, participants can row their way to greatness with a challenge that will not only make them feel great physically, but will also help to save lives."

Cancer Research UK spent more than £25 million in Oxford last year on some of the UK's leading scientific and clinical research.

Visit Cancerresearchuk.org/TheGreatRow

• Olympic rowing champion Helen Glover is backing The Great Row

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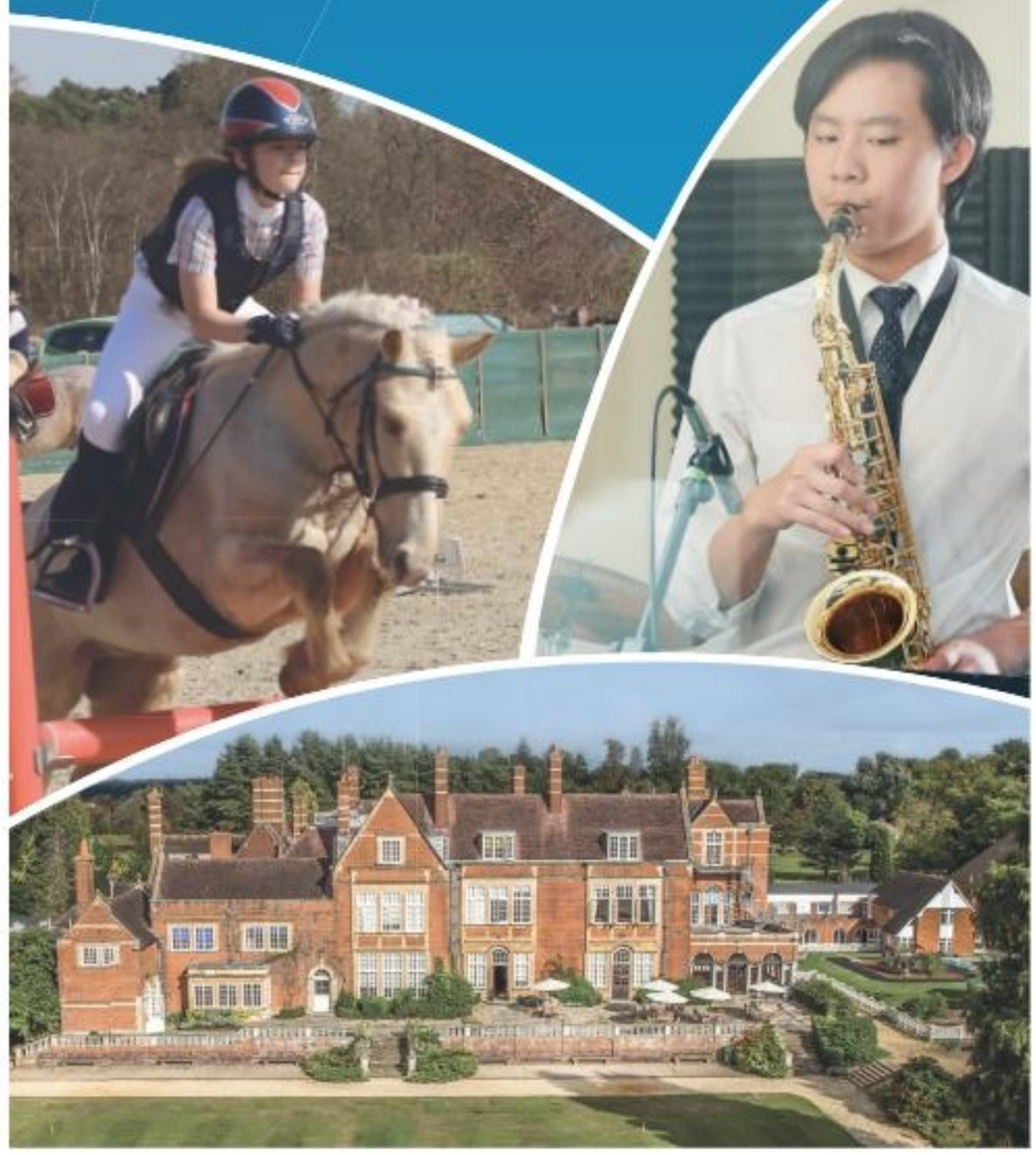

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Peak performance from runner John

A GYM owner from Bicester has taken on one of the world's toughest endurance races.

John Stocker from Evolve Health & Fitness was among the 113-strong field who started the Montane Spine Race in the small Peak District village of Edale on January 15.

The race has become an iconic winter challenge over 268 miles covering the entire Pennine Way with a time limit of seven days to complete it.

The trail has 13,142m of ascent and 13,255m of decent and crosses the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Northumberland National Park, Hadrian's Wall and the Cheviots; finishing at the Scottish Borders.

John started the race on his own but the relentless rain over the proceeding 36 hours caused flash flooding through the valleys making passing extremely hazardous.

For this reason most of the competitors teamed up together for safety reasons to help each other cross wide ravines of fast flowing freezing flood water which is when he met second place woman Helene Dumais, a Canadian elite endurance racer adventurer.

• John Stocker takes a well-deserved rest during the gruelling race

Throughout the next five days John and Helene battled rain, fog and icy conditions as well as tiredness, fatigue and injury to eventually conquer the course together followed by Liam Kiely in his support vehicle who provided hot drinks, food and a place to take a short rest along the way when roads would allow.

Back at his gym in Bicester members ran, cycled (or both) the same 268 mile distance in the Spine Challenge.

John's ever enthusiastic followers raced their own event using gym treadmills and bikes to complete the full distance with their progress plotted on a large map of the race route at Evolve. This was a huge success and promoted a friendly but competitive spirit whilst John and Helene were out on the trail.

The race continued for 268 gruelling miles and eventually took many victims along the way with 50 retiring and only 63 finishing the iconic race.

The finish eventually came for John and Helene on Saturday January 21 at 6.30pm when they finally touched the wall of the Border Hotel at Kirk Yetholme.

The pair came in 41st overall and Helene was second female.

• John Stocker proudly holds aloft his medal

Lucas Muir's balloon
Picture: Bryan Tomlin/Facebook

Balloon's 400-mile journey down south

A NORTH Oxfordshire resident is trying to reunite a balloon with a four-year-old boy after the child's balloon travelled more than 400 miles from Dundee to Banbury.

The McDonald's balloon was found in the north Oxfordshire town by Bryan Tomlin after being launched by four-year-old Lucas Muir in Dundee.

Mr Tomlin uploaded images of the balloon to Facebook on Sunday morning and has been shared more than 5,700 times.

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Honoured for dealing with crash aftermath

By George Welch

EIGHT police officers and staff who dealt with the aftermath of a deadly multi-vehicle crash on the A34 last year have been given commendations.

The pile-up on August 10 killed a mother and three children and injured a further five people.

Tracy Houghton, 45, died instantly along with her sons Ethan, 13, and Joshua, 11, and her partner's daughter Aimee Goldsmith, also 11, when Tomasz Kroker smashed into stationary traffic.

Polish lorry driver Kroker, 30, was jailed for 10 years in October following his trial at Reading Crown Court.

He was scrolling through music selections at the time of the crash when driving on the Oxfordshire/Berkshire border.

A slow moving lorry caused a tailback and two other lorries and four smaller vehicles were all stationary behind it.

Kroker then drove into the back of the vehicles at approximately 50mph.

Insp Andy Storey, Sgt Jack Hawkins, Det Sgt Gavin Collier, PC David Beeson, PC John Simpkins, PC Philip Hanham, digital communications officer Ellie Selby and media officer Lucy Billen were all recognised at the ceremony.

Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Francis Habgood presented the awards at a ceremony at Sulhamstead Force Training Centre in Reading on Tuesday last week.

Insp Andy Storey said: "Our thoughts remain with the family members who have been affected by this terrible, and avoidable, collision which resulted in the loss of their loved ones."

An awareness video using footage from the crash which has been watched by more than 250,000 people was created by one of the seven commemorated, Ms Selby.

The video contains distressing footage from the incident and interviews with those directly impacted by the tragedy.

The video can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkjRvsT8f5k)

• Eight officers and staff were recognised alongside other colleagues at a ceremony on Tuesday last week and above, lorry driver Tomasz Kroker was jailed for causing the deaths of four people

Museum receives grant to celebrate 40th anniversary

THE Ashmolean Museum has received a £110,000 grant for a new display to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of its founder.

Two central lower floor galleries will tell how the world's first museum was created by Elias Ashmole, to evoke his 17th Century 'cabinet of curiosities'.

The double-height space will allow the Museum to show important portraits of scientists and thinkers of the 1600s and will show iconic treasures such as Powhatan's Mantle in a central location.

A display about the Civil War (1637–60) will introduce Ashmole's connection to Oxford, while exploring the political background of the period.

Director Dr Xa Sturgis said: "It will allow us to tell the story of the founding of the first public museum and why it is called the Ashmolean; what it was opened for in 1683; and why it is in Oxford."

The museum added an existing gallery would also be reconfigured as a flexible space for 'showcasing projects that resonate with Ashmole's original intentions for the use of collections'.

• Elias Ashmole created the Ashmolean Museum in the 17th century

It will become a permanent laboratory space for innovative and collaborative projects and displays.

The money was donated by the DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund and the new collections are expected to open in September.

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Motorists caught shaving, reading and eating cereals

By George Welch

• Police footage shows drivers texting and reading paperwork

MORE than 200 drivers were pulled over by police as part of an operation highlighting the dangers of being distracted when driving.

From eating cereal to having a shave, drivers across the force areas of Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary are still ignoring the dangers of being distracted when behind the wheel.

Officers from the Roads Policing Unit, part of the Forces' Joint Operations Unit, staged a week-long crackdown on distracted drivers through Operation Tramline earlier this month.

A total of 213 drivers were stopped by police for various offences using an unmarked HGV tractor unit, unmarked police cars and motorbikes.

The five-day operation was carried out on the A34, M40, M4, M27 and M3.

Of those stopped, 151 drivers were stopped for being distracted while behind the wheel.

Of those 151, 137 were caught using their mobile phones and others were stopped for reading books and eating.

Many of those stopped for using their mobile phones were found holding their devices below the steering wheel, with the drivers looking at the screen instead of the road ahead.

Other offences included 25 stopped for excess speed and eight for careless driving as well as others for no insurance, no tax and insecure loads.

Sergeant Paul Diamond, who led the operation, said: "It is disappointing to see so many people still using mobile phones while they are driving.

"If a driver's attention is on their mobile phone, it is not on the road and this can be potentially fatal.

"Sadly we have seen many examples over the last 12 months of lives lost unnecessarily because a driver has not had their full attention on the road."

He added: "That is why identifying distracted drivers is a priority for the Roads Policing Unit across Thames Valley and Hampshire and we will continue to target drivers who choose to disregard the safety of others."

One van driver was stopped on the M27 for eating his breakfast cereal while driving and a HGV driver was caught shaving on the M4.

The operation was supported by a DVSA vehicle examiner who joined officers and inspected vehicles stopped during the course of the operation.

This resulted in prohibitions on 10 vehicles for tyre, brake and steering defects.

John Henderson, from Highways England, said: "Safety is our top priority and I am pleased that our HGV cab has been so useful in helping the police to identify unsafe behaviour on the motorways and major A roads.

"Highways England is committed to working collaboratively with Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary to improve road safety in the region by influencing driver behaviour by this and other initiatives."

Dozens caught drink or drug driving

• A 22-year-old man was arrested and disqualified from driving for 20 months after driving a car into a barn in Buckinghamshire while under the influence

A TOTAL of 70 people were arrested for drink/drug driving offences across Oxfordshire over the Christmas period.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Hampshire Constabulary arrested 538 motorists for drink and/or drug driving during their Christmas campaign, a joint operation that ran from December 1 to January 1.

TVP saw a slight decline, making 316 arrests, down from 325 the previous year, while in Hampshire the figure increased marginally from 215 in 2015 to 222 in 2016.

Figures for Oxfordshire were divided into Cherwell and west Oxfordshire, Oxford and south Oxfordshire.

Most of the 70 motorists arrested across the region came in the north of the region, with 33 – almost half and up five from the previous year – drivers in Cherwell and west Oxfordshire arrested for drink/drug driving offences.

Oxford and south Oxfordshire saw 18 and 19 people arrested for the same offences respectively.

Both areas saw a decline from 23 arrests in 2015.

Overall, this year saw an increase in the number of arrests (80) for drug-driving across both force areas – a 63 per cent rise on the figure of 49 for last year's campaign.

Roads Policing Ch Insp Henry Parsons said: "It's disappointing that we continue to find so many people drink-driving and drug-driving.

"The effects of it are so dangerous and it's not worth the risk - there is no excuse for it.

"These figures show that we remain committed to targeting those who cause death on our roads and make the roads less safe than they should be."

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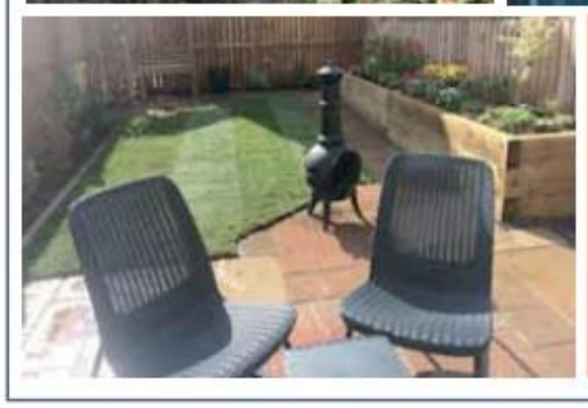

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Highlights include a 'red sea' of fabulous Ferraris, celebrating the legendary Italian company's 70th birthday. Among the mouth-watering £100m collection on show will be eye-catching greats such as the wondrous GTO, Daytona, Dino and F40.

Another popular feature is The Grand Avenue, a ground-breaking roadway running through the very centre of the display stands. It means The London Classic Car Show is no mere static exhibition but a living, breathing homage to the automobile where visitors can not only see but also hear their favourite classics in action.

Closing date: Friday, February 17

The 2017 London Classic Car Show is also certain to attract many celebrities from the motoring world. The roll-call from previous years includes F1 stars Jenson Button and David Coulthard, TV's James May and racing icon Sir Stirling Moss. More big names are promised for 2017.

Advance tickets to the 2017 London Classic Car Show are available from the show website – thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk – with adult admission priced from just £24.

WIN TICKETS!

To win a pair of tickets to Sunday's show, simply answer this simple question:

Q: Which legendary Italian car manufacturer will be celebrating its 70th birthday at the 2017 London Classic Car Show?

Maserati, Ferrari or Lamborghini?

Jodie Kidd and Jenson Button are two of the motoring celebs who have visited the show.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
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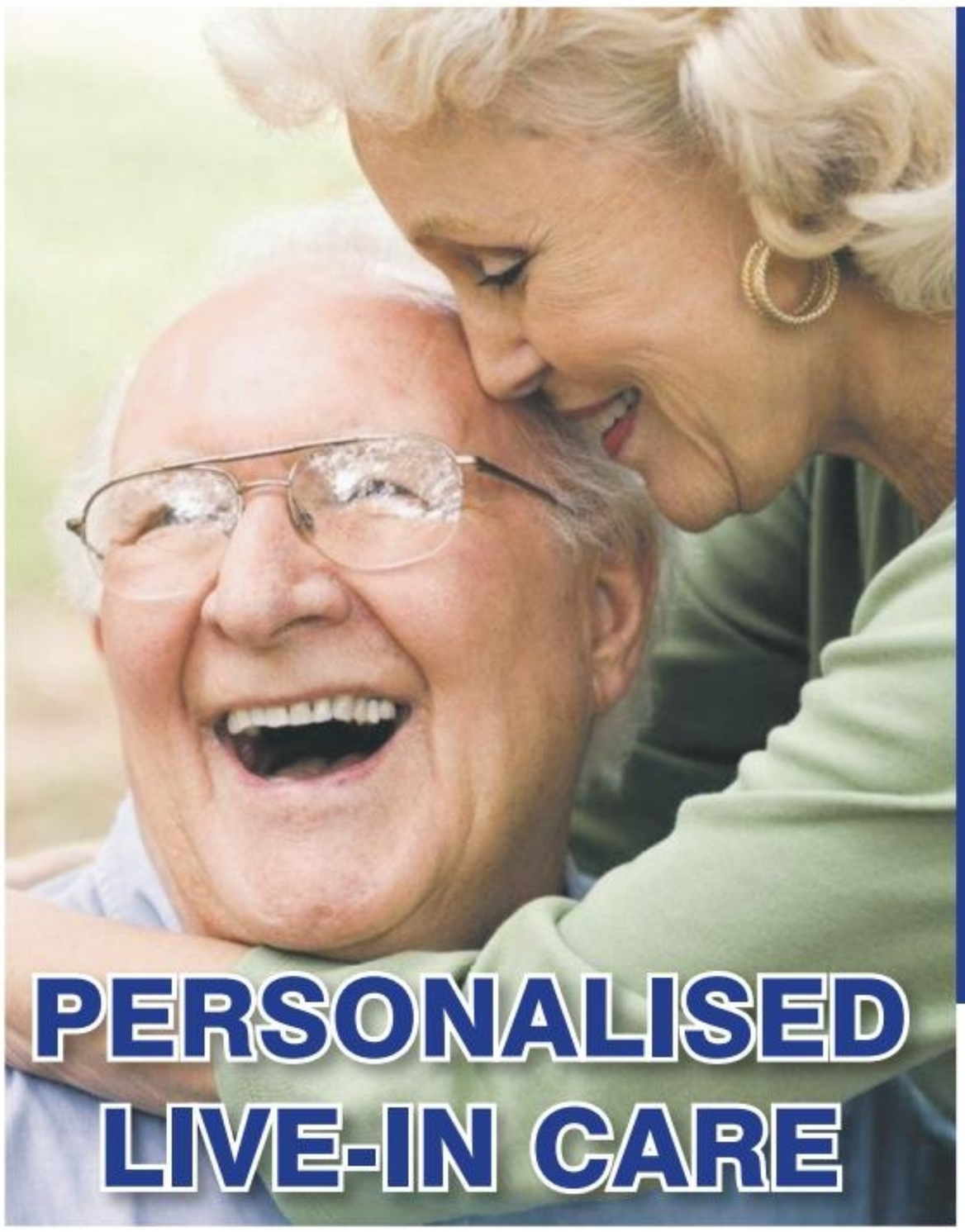

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Starting again (8)
4 Knob (4)
8 Be plentiful (6)
10 Nape of the neck (6)
11 Molars (5)
12 Traded (5)
14 Suitable for agriculture (6)
17 Never at rest (9)
18 Carrying too much (9)
22 Hard (6)
23 Marked in a mysterious way (5)
24 Items (5)
26 Handwriting (6)
27 Resinous (6)
28 Stain (4)
29 Charges with a duty (8)

Quick Clues Down

1 Peruse (4)
2 Beaches (6)
3 Cloak (6)
5 Digits (6)
6 Disagreed (8)
7 Dark yellow (5)
9 Discouraging (9)
10 Strong supporters (9)
13 Living (5)
15 Kind of poplar (5)
16 Comprises (8)
18 Carry to excess (6)
19 Explode (5)
20 Clearing cloth (6)
21 Relatives (6)
25 Shades (4)

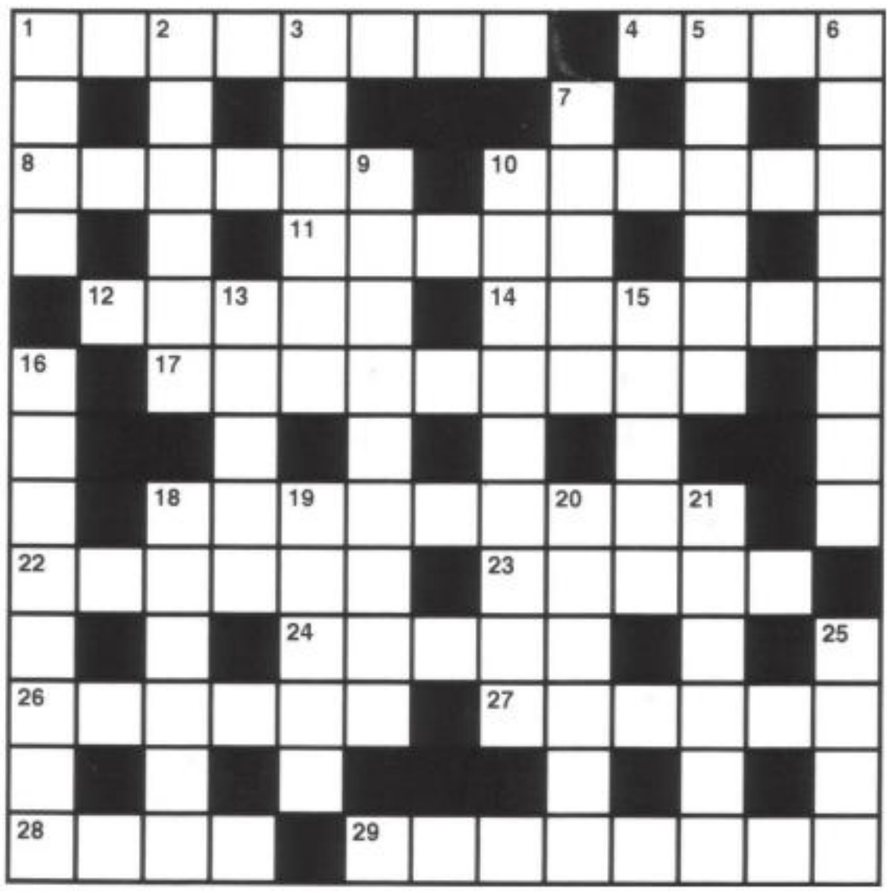
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Dashed to make the connection (8)
4 The girl takes a follower to the festival (4)
8 Help needed for Long Island caught in a sandy ridge (6)
10 Drops the matches (6)
11 Speak out, instead of keeping nothing inside (5)
12 Make a bid - there's a little official hesitation (5)
14 Slightly distorted viewpoints for simply heavenly people (6)
17 With which to handle confidential information? (9)
18 Groups around a hundred and fifty are very small objects (9)
22 Everything in the wager makes for a pantomime (6)
23 Polish your brow, or back to the breaking of a law (5)
24 Be depressed under the surface (5)
26 Danger can be found outside the house (6)
27 We rake out the less healthy (6)
28 Film I left is disposed of (4)
29 Fed up, and doomed to hold a small number (8)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Wounded right in the cabin (4)
2 Upset the bucket with a very loud noise - then dish the rice (6)
3 Number of the Spanish flat? (6)
5 Strips back a state of unwatchfulness (6)
6 Helped like my sister, Edwina? (8)
7 Exhausted on the southern slope (5)
9 Neglected, but obtained for ten surrounding (9)
10 The ragged fellow could exult after turning over acres (9)
13 Concluding the fishy part of the French upbringing? (5)
15 Bestows part of the swag I've sent (5)
16 Put a French sex symbol in boxes? An idea for vegetables (8)
18 One word for many (6)
19 Oppose the second-class ingredient in the dance (5)
20 Most depressed to see the direction of the sunset? (6)
21 The senior has a kind of smooth appearance (6)
25 Or went up in rising drunkenness, and subdued (4)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

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EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	1	9			3	6		
		8	5				4	2
	6		1	7				5
9	7	6		8	4			
	2						3	
			9	5		8	6	7
3				4	1		2	
4	8				9	5		
		1	2			7	8	

5	6		9		2		4	3
			6	4	7			
	7			5			2	
6								2
	1						9	
4								7
	9			6			1	
			3	8	5			
2	8		1		9		3	6

	2		9					
5				7			8	
	9	6	1			2		
					2		9	4
		3				6		
6	7		5					
		7			1	3	5	
	6			3				2
					8		4	

This week's solutions

5	6	1	9	8	2	7	4	3
3	2	9	6	4	7	1	5	8
4	7	8	3	5	1	6	2	9
6	3	4	7	1	5	9	8	2
9	1	7	2	3	8	5	6	4
4	5	2	8	9	6	3	1	7
8	9	5	4	6	3	2	7	1
1	4	6	5	2	7	8	3	9
2	8	3	1	7	9	4	5	6

1	4	3	9	5	2	8	6	7
7	9	5	6	4	1	3	2	8
2	8	6	7	9	3	1	5	4
4	3	9	5	2	8	6	7	1
8	1	2	7	3	6	5	4	9
6	5	7	4	9	1	3	8	2
9	2	4	8	1	5	7	9	3
5	6	8	9	1	2	4	3	7
3	7	1	2	6	4	9	5	8

5	1	9	4	2	3	6	7	8
7	3	8	5	9	6	1	4	2
2	6	4	1	7	8	3	9	5
9	7	6	3	8	4	2	5	1
8	2	5	6	1	7	4	3	9
1	4	3	9	5	2	8	6	7
3	5	7	8	4	1	9	2	6
4	8	2	7	6	5	9	1	3
6	9	1	2	3	8	5	4	7

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Resuming 4 Stud 8 Abound 10 Scruff 11 Teeth 12 Dealt 14 Arable 17 Sleepless 18 Overladen 22 Severe 23 Runic 24 Units 26 Script 27 Sticky 28 Spot 29 Entrusts

Down: 1 Read 2 Shores 3 Mantle 5 Thumbs 6 Differed 7 Ochre 9 Deterrent 10 Stalwarts 13 Alive 15 Aspen 16 Consists 18 Overdo 19 Erupt 20 Duster 21 Nieces 25 Dyes

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Hyphened 4 Gala 8 Relief 10 Splits 11 Voice 12 Offer 14 Angels 17 Fingertip 18 Parades 22 Ballet 23 Rosin 24 Below 26 Garden 27 Weaker 28 Sold 29 Fattened

Down: 1 Hurt 2 Pilaff 3 Eleven 5 Asleep 6 Assisted 7 Spent 9 Forgotten 10 Scarecrow 13 Final 15 Gives 16 Cabbages 18 Plural 19 Rebel 20 Lowest 21 Silken 25 Trod

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DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 The Best Dishes Ever** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights** (S) **2.30 Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships** (S) **4.30 Final Score** (S) **5.10 BBC News** (S) **5.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **5.30 Who Dares Wins** (S) **6.10 Pointless Celebrities** (S)

7 **7.00 Let It Shine** The final round of auditions arrives. (S)

8 **8.25 Casualty** Alicia's parents announce they are planning to give their troubled marriage another go. (S)

9 **9.15 Taboo** James forms another dangerous alliance, this time with the depraved chemist Cholmondely. (S)

10 **10.10 BBC News; Weather;** (S) National Lottery Update (S) **10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights** Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest FA Cup fourth-round matches. (S)

11 **11.55 The NFL Show** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL. (S)

AFTER 12 **12.25 FILM A Few Best Men (2011) (15)** Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel. (S) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.00** BBC News (S)

BBC2

8.05 FILM Little Women (1949) (U) (S) **10.00 Secret Britain** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure** (S)(R) **1.00 FILM Kismet (1955) (U)** (S) **2.50 Flog It!** (S)(R) **3.25 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes** (S)(R) **4.25 Mastermind** (S)(R) **4.55 University Challenge** (S)(R) **5.25 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.55 FILM Finding Neverland (2004) (PG)** (S)

7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney The archaeologists uncover a remarkable find. Last in the series. (S)(R)

8.30 Dad's Army The platoon takes two prisoners. (S)(R)

9.00 Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence The truth about the celebrated artist's reputation as a 'Lord of Misrule'. (S)

10.20 FILM The Sapphires (2012) (PG) Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd. (S)

12.00 Bowls: World Indoor Championships (S) **1.00 FILM Love Is the Devil (1998) (18)** British fact-based drama, starring Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig. (S) **2.25** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Rebound** (S)(R) **10.25 Guess This House** (S)(R) **11.25 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.35 River Monsters** (S)(R) **1.05 Big Star's Little Star** (S)(R) **2.05 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **3.05 The Chase** (S)(R) **4.05 Dance Dance Dance** (S)(R) **5.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 ITV News** (S) **6.00 You've Been Framed! King Size!** (S)

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (S)

8.00 The Voice UK The fourth stage of the Blind Auditions phase of the contest. (S)

9.30 Through the Keyhole With panellists Paddy McGuinness, Caroline Flack and Dave Berry. (S)

10.30 ITV News; Weather (S) **10.45 FILM Cliffhanger (1993) (15)** Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow. (S)

Channel 4

6.20 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.25 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.25 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.50 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **11.50 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast** (S)(R) **12.50 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.25 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Grand Designs** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages Penelope Keith seeks out remarkable communities in Argyll and Bute. (S)(R)

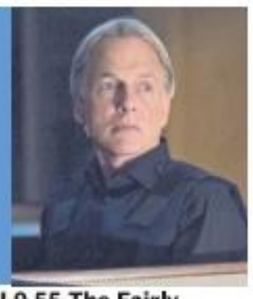
8.00 Great Canal Journeys Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a voyage across the Netherlands. (S)(R)

9.00 FILM The Monuments Men (2014) (12) Premiere. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Matt Damon. (S)

11.20 FILM Haywire (2011) (15) Action thriller, with Gina Carano, Ewan McGregor and Michael Fassbender. (S)

1.05 The Last Leg (S)(R) **2.00** Hollyoaks (S) **4.00** Hoarder SOS (S)(R) **4.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **5.50** The King of Queens (S)(R)

Channel 5



6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 The Fairly OddParents Timmy wishes that he could swap places with Vicky's dog Doidle. (S)(R) **10.30 The Hotel Inspector** (S)(R) **11.25 FILM Gold (1974) (12)** Action adventure, starring Roger Moore. (S) **1.50 Big Bash Cricket Final: Highlights** Action from the final. (S) **3.20 The Yorkshire Vet** (S)(R) **6.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords** (S)(R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles A man is accused of rape and murder. (S)

8.00 NCIS Vance investigates a murder that seems to be connected to his past. (S) **8.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship Action from the latest fixtures. (S) **9.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush** The latest matches from Leagues One and Two. (S)

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they cope with living alongside one another. (S)

11.05 Body Freaks: Old Face, New Face Documentary exploring extreme cosmetic transformations. (S)(R)

12.00 SuperCasino 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother (S)(R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies (S)(R) **4.50** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.15** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.35** Coronation Street **11.00** Ninja Warrior UK **12.00** Take Me Out Celebrity Special **1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05** FILM: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) (PG) Drama, starring Briana Evigan. **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** FILM: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) (PG) Concluded. **4.05** FILM: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) (PG) Live action and animated comedy, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** FILM: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) (PG) Concluded. **5.50** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson. **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) Concluded. **8.00** FILM: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) (12) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Martin Freeman. **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** FILM: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) (12) Concluded. **11.10** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.00** Dads **2.25** Safeword **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** George and Mildred **6.45** Murder, She Wrote **9.40** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **11.55** A Touch of Frost **2.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams. Tom Fort journeys down the River Trent in a custom-built punt. **8.00** Treasures of the Indus **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.35** Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador **1.40** Classic Soul at the BBC **2.40** Sings Motown **3.40** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 How I Met Your Mother **6.45** Melissa & Joey **7.35** Baby Daddy **8.35** Young & Hungry **9.30** Black-ish **10.30** The Goldbergs **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00** FILM: School of Rock (2003) (PG) **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: X-Men: First Class (2011) (12) Superhero adventure prequel, with James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender. **11.35** Gogglebox **1.15** First Dates **2.25** Virtually Famous **3.05** Chewing Gum **3.30** Revenge **4.55** The Goldbergs

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Food Unwrapped **9.15** Come Dine with Me **11.35** Homes by the Sea **12.40** Location, Location, Location **1.40** Coast vs Country **2.45** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History **9.00** China's Forgotten Emperor **10.00** Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors – Secret History **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits **11.55** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.00** The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History **2.05** China's Forgotten Emperor **3.10** Food Unwrapped **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Titanic (1953) (PG) Disaster drama, starring Clifton Webb. **1.00** The Poseidon Adventure (1972) (PG) Disaster movie, starring Gene Hackman. **3.20** The House of Magic (2013) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Murray Blue. **5.05** Clueless (1995) (12) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone. **6.55** Millions (2004) (12) Comedy drama, starring Alex Etel. **8.50** Loving Interview Special **9.00** Slumdog Millionaire (2008) (15) Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel. **11.25** Yakuza Apocalypse (2015) (18) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Hayato Ichihara. **1.40** R100 (2013) (15) Japanese comedy drama, starring Nao Ohmori. **3.50** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.05 Rocket City Rednecks **7.55** Deadliest Pests Down Under **9.00** Storage Hunters **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **12.00** Traffic Cops **1.00** Top Gear **2.00** QI XL **4.00** Top Gear **7.00** Red Dwarf **9.00** Mock the Week **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **1.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats **1.35** Gavin & Stacey **3.10** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Tenko **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Tenko **5.00** One Foot in the Grave **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Jonathan Creek **9.00** Wallander **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.25** Daniel Deronda **3.35** Garden Hopping **4.00** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Big Town Dance **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** The Big Spell **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** What's Up **12.00** Football's Funniest Moments **12.30** Futurama **3.30** Modern Family **6.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2017 **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **9.00** FILM: Snakes on a Plane (2006) (15) Thriller, starring Samuel L Jackson. **11.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **12.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.00** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life **2.00** Police Force: Australia **4.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Making David Attenborough's Flying Monsters **12.00** David Attenborough's Kingdom of Plants **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Beware The Slenderman **11.15** Real Time with Bill Maher **12.25** FILM: Nightingale (2015) (12) Psychological drama, starring David Oyelowo. **2.10** The Wire **3.25** Funny or Die Presents **4.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.10 Resurrection **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Bin There, Dump That **4.00** Extreme Makeover: Home Edition **6.00** My Family **8.00** Inside the Ambulance **9.00** FILM: Scream 3 (2000) (18) Horror sequel, starring Neve Campbell. **11.15** Inside the Ambulance **12.20** Bin There, Dump That **1.25** The Call Centre **2.15** The Strain **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.55** 'Allo 'Allo! **8.40** Blandings **10.00** Last of the Summer Wine **12.15** Only Fools and Horses **8.00** We Have Been Watching **9.00** I'm Alan Partridge **11.00** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle **12.20** Steve Coogan as Alan Partridge and Other Less Successful Characters **2.20** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle **3.00** Nighty Night

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **7.00** Football's Greatest Players **8.00** Premier League Legends **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** Football Gold **12.00** Live SPFL Football. Motherwell v Rangers (kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Spanish Football Gold **5.25** Live La Liga Football. Eibar v Deportivo La Coruna (kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** Spanish Football Gold **7.40** Live La Liga Football. Leganes v Celta Vigo (kick-off 7.45pm). **9.40** Spanish Football Gold **10.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **10.30** Carl Frampton: Fighter of 2016 **10.45** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **12.45** Carl Frampton: Fighter of 2016 **1.00** Live Fight Night International. Carl Frampton v Leo Santa Cruz. **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

Sunday January 29th

DAYTIME

BBC1

Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup, **3.35pm**

6.00 Breakfast (S) **7.35 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights** (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **11.50 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup** (S) **2.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **2.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **3.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **3.35 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup** (S) **6.05 BBC News** (S) **6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.30 Countryfile** (S)

7
7.30 Still Open All Hours A mysterious woman comes looking for Eric. (S)

8
8.00 Call the Midwife Two unusual cases test the midwives' emotional detachment. (S)

9
9.00 Apple Tree Yard Yvonne is stalked by her attacker. (S)

10
10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights The latest matches in the FA Cup fourth round. (S)

11
11.20 The Brit Who Tried to Kill Trump Documentary about a man who tried to assassinate Donald Trump. (S)

AFTER 12
12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA (S) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.35** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Dragons' Den, **8pm**

8.00 An Island Parish: Anguilla (S)(R) **8.30 The Edible Garden** (S)(R) **9.00 Countryfile** (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day** (S)(R) **12.00 Nigellissima** (S)(R) **12.30 Food & Drink** (S)(R) **1.00 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights** (S) **2.30 Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships** (S) **5.15 Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer** (S)(R) **6.15 Ski Sunday** (S)

7
7.00 City in the Sky Keeping aircraft safe while in flight. (S)(R)

8
8.00 Dragons' Den The panel examines a range of dolls inspired by history. (S)

9
9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week New series. A group of recruits trains with the South African Special Forces Brigade. (S)

10
10.00 QI XL With Colin Lane, Sarah Millican and Noel Fielding. (S)
10.45 Live at the Apollo Sarah Millican presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (S)(R)

11
11.30 FILM The Cider House Rules (1999) (12) Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine. (S)

AFTER 12
1.30 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.30** Holby City (S)(R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two (S) **5.30** Secrets of the Mona Lisa (S)(R)

ITV

Dance Dance Dance, **6.30pm**

6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **11.00 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy** (S)(R) **11.30 Chopping Block** (S)(R) **12.30 ITV News** (S) **12.35 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **1.35 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.35 Ninja Warrior UK** (S)(R) **3.35 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **5.05 ITV Regional News** (S) **5.15 ITV News** (S) **5.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special** (S)(R) **6.30 Dance Dance Dance** (S)

8
8.00 Endeavour The discovery of a 2000-year-old body provides fresh clues in a missing persons case. Last in the series. (S)

10
10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.15 Peston on Sunday Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (S)(R)

11
11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights Action from the latest Anglo-Welsh fixtures. (S)

AFTER 12
12.15 Jackpot247 3.00 Chopping Block (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Homeland, **9pm**

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (S)(R) **1.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **2.25 FILM Epic (2013) (U)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. (S) **4.30 Channel 4 News** (S) **4.55 FILM Avatar (2009) (12)** Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington. (S)

8
8.00 Walking the Americas The final leg of Levison Wood's journey brings him to Panama. Last in the series. (S)

9
9.00 Homeland Carrie and Reda battle for their client, and Saul and Dar suspect Keane has a secret. Claire Danes and Rupert Friend star. (S)

10
10.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown With David O'Doherty, Johnny Vegas, Jamie Laing and Holly Walsh. (S)(R)

11
11.00 FILM Sleepy Hollow (1999) (15) Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson. (S)

AFTER 12
1.00 How to Lose Weight Well (S)(R) **1.55** Heston's Great British Food (S)(R) **2.50** The Autistic Gardener (S)(R) **3.40** Win It Cook It (S)(R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **5.05** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R)

Channel 5

Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4, **8pm**

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 The Fairly OddParents 10.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush 11.00 Football on 5: The Championship 11.30 Police Interceptors: Takedown 12.00 Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud (S)(R) **1.0 Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2** (S)(R) **2.00 FILM The First Wives Club (1996) (PG)** (S) **4.00 FILM Miss Congeniality (2000) (12)** (S) **6.10 FILM Leap Year (2010) (PG)** (S)

8
8.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4 Compilation of internet videos featuring cats. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. (S)

10
10.00 FILM Life As We Know It (2010) (12) Premiere. Comedy, starring Katherine Heigl. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm. (S)

AFTER 12
12.15 FILM Going the Distance (2010) (15) (S) **2.00** SuperCasino **3.10 FILM Saw: The Final Chapter (2010) (18)** (S) **4.40** Access (S) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.15** Emmerdale **9.00** Coronation Street **11.30** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00** FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999) (U) Disney comedy adventure, starring Matthew Broderick. **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999) (U) Concluded. **4.35** FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood. **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) (PG) Concluded. **8.00** FILM: Skyfall (2012) (12) James Bond thriller, starring Daniel Craig. **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** FILM: Skyfall (2012) (12) Concluded. **10.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Louisa Johnson **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.25** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **8.35** Heartbeat **10.45** Murder, She Wrote **12.50** Wycliffe **1.55** FILM: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) (PG) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** FILM: Changeling (2008) (15) Fact-based drama, starring Angelina Jolie. **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** FILM: Changeling (2008) (15) Concluded. **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.55** On the Buses **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** British History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30** FILM: Under the Rainbow (2013) (15) Premiere. A woman struggles to choose between two musically gifted suitors, while her neurotic aunt copes with a mid-life crisis. Drama, starring Agathe Bonitzer and Agnes Jaoui. **12.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **1.15** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.15** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **3.45** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 How I Met Your Mother **6.40** Melissa & Joey **7.35** Baby Daddy **8.30** The Goldbergs **9.55** Hollyoaks **12.30** Coach Trip: Road to Marbs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes **7.00** FILM: X-Men (2000) (12) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** FILM: Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) (12) Fantasy thriller sequel, starring Nicolas Cage. **11.50** Britain's Favourite Superhero **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.30** Food Unwrapped **9.55** Car SOS **11.00** Building the Dream **12.00** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **7.55** Car SOS **9.00** Father Ted **10.00** Sarah Millican: Thoroughly Modern Millican Live **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.15** Father Ted **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20** Food Unwrapped **3.45** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Battle at Apache Pass (1952) (PG) Western, with Jeff Chandler. **1.00** The Love Bug (1968) (U) Disney comedy, starring Dean Jones. **3.10** The Borrowers (1997) (U) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. **4.50** Sunshine on Leith (2013) (PG) Musical, starring George MacKay and Kevin Guthrie. **6.50** The River Wild (1994) (12) Action thriller, starring Meryl Streep. **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) (12) An FBI agent investigates four magicians who use their lavish stage shows as cover for seemingly impossible heists. Crime thriller, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Mark Ruffalo. **11.15** Spring Breakers (2012) (18) Drama, starring James Franco. **1.05** The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness (2013) (PG) Documentary about the work of Studio Ghibli. **3.30** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.15 Top Gear Africa Special **9.50** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **10.45** Traffic Cops **12.20** Jay Leno's Garage **2.15** Top Gear **5.20** Red Bull Soapbox Race **6.20** Top Gear Africa Special **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Suits **11.00** Mock the Week **11.40** Crackanory **12.20** Mock the Week **1.40** Crackanory **2.15** Gavin & Stacey **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 New Tricks **8.00** The Bill **12.00** New Tricks **1.00** Our Mutual Friend **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Moth **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.40** The Shadow in the North **3.30** Garden Hopping **4.00** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** David Attenborough's Galapagos **8.00** Making Attenborough's Galapagos **9.00** Monkey Life **11.00** WWE Raw **12.00** Futurama **2.00** Modern Family **5.00** The Simpsons **5.30** The Big Spell **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Freddie Down Under **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** The Force: Manchester **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Ross Kemp on Gangs **2.00** Police Force: Australia **4.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Fortitude **10.00** The Affair **11.10** True Detective **12.20** Thought Crimes: The Case Of The Cannibal Cop **1.55** The Wire **3.00** The Affair **4.10** The Guest Wing

W SKY: 109

6.10 Resurrection **7.00** Bondi Rescue **8.30** EastEnders **11.00** MasterChef Junior USA **4.00** Doctor Who **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **10.00** Luther **11.20** Code Black **12.20** Bondi Rescue **12.55** The Call Centre **1.45** The Strain **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.50** Blandings **9.00** Only Fools and Horses **4.00** We Have Been Watching **6.20** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** I'm Alan Partridge **11.00** The Thick of It **12.20** Bellamy's People **1.40** Monty Python: Parrot Sketch Not Included **3.05** Stella Street **3.20** Nighty Night **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **7.00** Premier League Legends **8.00** Premier League Years **10.00** The Sunday Supplement **11.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live SPFL Football. Celtic v Hearts (kick-off 1.00pm). **3.15** Live La Liga Football. Espanyol v Sevilla (kick-off 3.15pm). **5.15** Live La Liga Football. Athletic Bilbao v Sporting Gijon (kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Real Madrid v Real Sociedad (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Fight Night International **12.00** Live NFL Pro Bowl. The AFC v the NFC (kick-off 12.00am). **3.00** Premier League Years **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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PROPERTY WEEKLY

Thursday, 26 January - Wednesday, 1 February 2017

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

This property showcased courtesy of Davis Tate Wantage

Period home in Wantage

On the market is a beautiful period home situated in a premium location within walking distance to the market place in Wantage.

It is well-presented and flexible accommodation arranged over three floors and a sizeable rear garden.

There is potential to extend, and the house comes with two reception rooms, both with open fireplaces, four bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom.

The entrance hall has original wood flooring, radiator, stairs leading to the first floor, doors to the living

• *Continues on page 54*

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GOLD SOUTH EAST ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2016 THE SUNDAY TIMES

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES A rare opportunity to purchase a detached home in this desirable North Abingdon location. Nearing the end of an extension to provide versatile, well proportioned accommodation over two floors. EPC Rating D

£510,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

FARINGDON A superbly presented and generously proportioned four bedroom family home with spacious accommodation, two reception rooms, master en-suite, garage and carport. EPC Rating B.

£379,950 Wantage office 01235 772670

DIDCOT A well presented detached house situated on popular Ladygrove development. Within walking distance from local amenities including shops, the All Saints Primary School and Didcot Parkway station. Awaiting EPC Rating

£375,000 Didcot office 01235 818371

HARWELL An immaculately presented bungalow situated on an exclusive road in the village of Harwell. With a modern finish throughout. Gas central heating and fully double glazed. Single garage and driveway parking. EPC Rating E.

£345,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

GROVE An extended detached home offered to the market with no onward chain. Two reception rooms, ground floor WC, garage and driveway parking for two. EPC Rating D

£312,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

SUTTON COURTENAY A spacious 2 bedroom first floor apartment in a popular village location. The property would be an ideal purchase for investors or first time buyers and is available with no onward chain. EPC Rating D

£199,950 Didcot office 01235 818371

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Abingdon £265,000
A modern two bedroom flat located within 100m of the heart of Abingdon's main shopping area. EPC Rating C.

Longworth £750,000
An attractive and contemporary detached period home offering flexible accommodation situated within the village of Longworth. EPC Rating E.

Whitecross £450,000
Three bedroom detached bungalow with 53' enclosed south-westerly rear garden. EPC rating D.

Abingdon £365,000
This three bedroom detached house is situated just off Audlett Drive and within 1.5 miles of Abingdon town centre. EPC Rating D.

Abingdon £165,000
A well presented first floor studio apartment situated within 1.5 miles of Abingdon town centre. EPC Rating E

Abingdon £375,000
Two bedroom town house within 0.2 miles of Abingdon town centre with neutral decor throughout. EPC Rating D.

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2 BED — **DIDCOT**

A two bedroom MID-TERRACE HOUSE in a quiet Cul-de-Sac location on the desirable Ladygrove development. The property is positioned in a very convenient location close to Didcot Parkway Station. **£255,000**

4 BED — **ABINGDON**

SPACIOUS four bedroom three storey HOUSE with large double bedrooms with an en-suite for each bedroom. Conveniently close to Abingdon town centre offering good bus links. **£350,000**

3 BED — **ABINGDON**

A much larger than average, three bedroomed SEMI DETACHED property, offering good size living accommodation, with 3 double bedrooms. **£350,000**

5 BED — **SHIPPON, ABINGDON**

Situated in the beautiful village of Shippon located in a quiet cul-de-sac is this substantial five bedroom DETACHED HOUSE. **£625,000**

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2 BED — **ABINGDON**

A MODERN 2 bedroom APARTMENT located in the heart of ABINGDON and is located within a short walk to the TOWN CENTRE, offering excellent bus links for OXFORD & DIDCOT. Secure allocated parking. **£950 PCM**

3 BED — **NORTH ABINGDON**

A LINK DETACHED house located in a desirable location of NORTH ABINGDON which has been REFURBISHED to a high standard throughout to include new kitchen and bathroom. **£1,300 PCM**

1 BED — **NORTH ABINGDON**

A MODERN one bedroom first floor APARTMENT located in NORTH ABINGDON offering excellent access for the A34. The property benefits from ALLOCATED PARKING. **£775 PCM**

3 BED — **STEVENTON**

Available now this 3 bedroom SEMI DETACHED COTTAGE situated in the village of STEVENTON. The cottage has been Re furbished throughout including a new kitchen. **£1,150 PCM**

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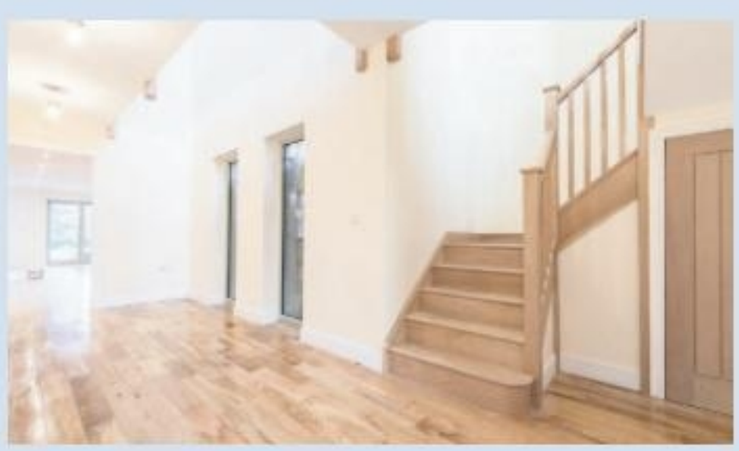
Abingdon £685 pcm
A stunning en-suite bedroom with a private shower room. Utilities included. Furnished. No parking.
Available: 21st February

Abingdon £1,050 pcm
Newly converted first & second floor duplex apartment in a fantastic location. Furnished.
Available: 3rd February

Kennington £1,100 pcm
A modern two bedroom house with conservatory in this popular residential cul-de-sac.
Available: 10th February

Dorchester On Thames
A stunning grade II listed property in this popular village location, tucked down a quiet lane. Three bedrooms, bathroom with bath and separate shower cubicle, spacious reception room and fully fitted kitchen. Open fire, beautiful mature garden and parking.
Available: Immediately

£1,395 pcm



Lower Radley £2,500 pcm
A stunning energy efficient newly built family home within a short walk to Radley Train station. Four/Five double bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom. First floor bathroom, ground floor shower room, large entrance hall leading to the ground floor bedroom or snug, study, living room/dining room with contemporary kitchen and separate utility room. Driveway parking with gated access, rear garden with large patio area. Unfurnished. Available: Immediately

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Abingdon £150,000

A spacious, dual aspect, one bedroom ground floor retirement apartment, within the popular Cygnet Court development, south of the town, with views over communal gardens. EPC - C

North Abingdon £450,000

Resting at the end of a quiet cul de sac, a well presented detached home located for excellent local schooling. The spacious hall leads to a cloakroom, sitting room, dining/family room and kitchen which opens into the conservatory. The utility (part of former garage). Four bedrooms, and a re-fitted en suite and family bathroom. EPC - D

North Abingdon

Located within this popular area of Peachcroft, a three bedroomed detached home, for sale with planning consent (P16/V1905/FUL) to erect a three bedroomed attached house with parking and garden. The existing house comprises: entrance lobby, cloak room, dual aspect sitting and dining rooms, a modern kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. A lawned garden area to the front, garage, drive and additional parking. The rear garden is private and enclosed, has a generous lawn and planted borders. EPC - D

£450,000 OIEO

Radley

A well presented home situated in a select close, overlooking open fields. The accommodation comprises: an entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, refitted kitchen, utility, cloakroom, study/family room and a conservatory. On the first floor, the master bedroom with en suite, three further double bedrooms and the family bathroom. Stairs to the second floor access the loft room. Externally, two drives, ample parking and a garage. The rear garden has mature planting and a decked entertaining area. EPC - C

£750,000 Guide Price

Whitecross £375,000

A superbly presented semi-detached bungalow sold with no onward chain. Three bedrooms, a generous open plan kitchen/dining/family room and a family bathroom. EPC - C

North Abingdon £375,000

A superbly presented home, with three bedrooms, bathroom, two receptions and a conservatory. Attractive east facing garden, garage and block paved drive. EPC - C

Abingdon Marina £660,000

A three storey, four bedroom, three bathroom executive town house within the select North Quay, fronting Abingdon Marina basin, with a private mooring. EPC - E

Chilton £525,000

A lovely double fronted, four bedroom detached house, comprising: entrance hall, cloaks, dual aspect sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, two bathrooms. Private rear garden. EPC - B

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Little Acreage, Old Marston Village
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Spareacre Lane, Eynsham, Witney
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Hadland Road, Abingdon
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ABINGDON

Central Abingdon £600,000

- Penthouse Type Apartment
- Large Open-Plan Accommodation
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Cinema Room / Bedroom 4
- Lift Access

Steventon £445,000

- Desirable Village Location
- Ideal Family Home
- Flowing Accommodation
- Close to Local Amenities
- Garage & Driveway Parking

Ladygrove OIEO £375,000

- Ladygrove Development
- Close to Amenities
- Close to Didcot Parkway
- Four Good Size Bedrooms
- Close to Orchard Shopping Centre

Kingston Bagpuize £250,000

- Ideal Investment Property
- Charming 1 Bed Stone Cottage
- Lovely Cottage Garden
- Working Feature Fireplace
- Excellent commuter links to Oxford M40

Central Abingdon OIEO £235,000

- Central Location
- 2 Bedrooms
- First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating

Central Abingdon £250,000

- Immaculate Condition Throughout
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Juliet Balcony
- Allocated Parking

Central Abingdon £320,000

- Close to Town Centre
- 3 Bedrooms
- Good Transport Links
- Fantastic Family Home
- Allocated Parking

North Abingdon £230,000

- North Abingdon Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Open-Plan Living Accommodation

OPEN HOUSE OIEO £375,000

- Detached Family Home
- Rear Extension and Sun Room
- Ideal Family Home
- Picturesque Views over Open Fields
- Easy Access to Abingdon/Oxford

OPEN HOUSE OIRO £300,000

- Excellent School Catchment
- Spacious Accommodation Throughout
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Potential to Extend STP
- Driveway and Garage

North Abingdon OIRO £300,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- North Abingdon
- Ideal Starter Home
- Fantastic Long Rear Garden
- Great School Catchment

Berinsfield OIEO £270,000

- Open-Plan Living
- Immaculate Condition
- Garage
- Garden
- Ideal Family Home

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BICESTER

KINGSMERE £350,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

This stunning modern home is finished to the highest order and offers light and spacious accommodation over three floors. The property was specified with a plethora of extra's when built and is immaculately presented throughout.

LANGFORD VILLAGE £199,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

Ideal for first time buyers, this freehold 1 bedroom cluster home sits on the edge of Langford Lake and has the added benefit of a conservatory and drive way parking.

GREENWOOD HOMES £340,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

This extended home has been meticulously improved by the current owner and is finished to a superb standard throughout. Set in a popular cul de sac and offering easy access to Bicester town centre all within Kings Meadow primary School Catchment.

SOUTHWOLD £207,000

IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS

This freehold home offers a spacious double bedroom, bathroom and updated kitchen. Ideal for first time buyers and investors, Internal viewing is highly recommended.

KINGSMERE £315,000

NO ONWARD CHAIN

Offering LIGHT and SPACIOUS accommodation throughout is this MODERN SEMI DETACHED HOME set in the HIGHLY REGARDED KINGSMERE DEVELOPMENT. With three bedrooms, en suite and family bathroom, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and NO ONWARD CHAIN

26 £350,000

NO ONWARD CHAIN

OFFERED TO THE MARKET WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN is this well presented DETACHED home that offers THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, two reception rooms, cloak room, detached garage SOLAR PANELS and COOPER SCHOOL CATCHMENT.

The Garden Quarter £385,000

UNDER OFFER

SUMMARYA fantastic opportunity to purchase a three bedroom property in the highly sought after development, The Garden Quarter. This three bedroom property is flooded with natural light throughout.

Pentewan £450,000

UNDER OFFER

Situated in the Town Centre an individually styled three detached bungalow in very well presented with re-fitted kitchen, bath and shower rooms, garage, gardens at which viewing is most highly recommended

Langford Village £480,000

DOUBLE GARAGE

Set in an enviable plot at the bottom of a desirable cul de sac is this light and spacious family home. Offering 4 double bedrooms, 3 reception rooms and a wealth of potential.

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Banbury £379950

EPC E
4 Bedroom Detached House
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No chain

Banbury £265,000

*EPC D
*End of Terrace
*Three Bedrooms
*Maintained to High Standard
*Mature Rear Garden

Banbury £375,000

EPC F
Four Bedrooms
Period Property
Garage
Basement Living Area

Banbury £255,000

*EPC C
*Three Bedrooms
*Off Street Parking
*Rear Garden

Banbury £150,000

EPC Awaited
Two Bedroom
Ground Floor Apartment
Off Street Parking

Banbury £249950

EPC Awaited
2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
Garage
Potential to extend
No onward chain
Timms Estate

Banbury £260,000

*EPC C
*Three Bedroom End Of Terrace
Shower Room Ensuite
*Off Street Parking
*Close to Station & Town Centre

The Moors Drive £550,000

EPC C
Five Bedrooms Detached
South Facing Garden
Countryside Views
Village Location
No Onward Chain

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HANWELL FIELDS

Lord Fielding Close £189,950

EPC Rating: B

Top Floor Apartment

Two Double Bedrooms

Ideal investment opportunity

Lapsley Drive £269,500

EPC Rating: C

Three Double bedrooms

Master bedroom with en-suite

Walking distance to local centre & Primary School

Sussex Drive £275,000

EPC Rating: C

Detached Family Home

South facing rear garden

Modern Kitchen

Rear aspect over trees

Ribston Close £279,950

EPC Rating: C

DETACHED Three Bedroom home

Large South facing Rear Garden

No Onward Chain

Malthouse Cottages £300,000

EPC Rating: C

Village Location

Three Bedroom Cottage

Spacious home with Ground floor extension

Thyme Close £325,000

EPC Rating: TBC

Good size three bedroom home

Popular design with Conservatory

Good size lounge & Kitchen/ dining room

NO CHAIN

Horsham Close £345,000

EPC Rating: E

Corner Plot

Open Plan Kitchen

Conservatory

Garage

Private Rear Garden

Westhorpe Mews, Byfield £374,950

EPC Rating: C

Built in 2013

Latest Energy Efficient Heating and Air System

NO CHAIN

Lord Fielding Close £190,000

Sold in the 6 Week Challenge

EPC Rating: C

Two bedroom Coach House

Own Garage with Power & Light

NHBC Warranty Remaining

Membris Way OIEO £175,000

Sold in the 6 Week Challenge

EPC Rating: D

Two Bedroom Semi-Detached

Garage with Off-road Parking for Two Cars

Modern Kitchen Diner

Usher Drive £250,000

Sold in the 6 Week Challenge

EPC Rating: C

Three good size bedrooms

Integral garage

Off road parking

En Suite

Cloakroom

Forgeway £210,000

Sold in the 6 Week Challenge

EPC Rating: TBC

Three Bedrooms

Lounge with Dining area

Conservatory

Onward Chain complete.

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5 Rotary Way

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CARTERTON

SHILTON PARK £190,000

Fantastic opportunity to purchase a 1st floor TWO double bedroom apartment on Shilton Park by local amenities. Modern decor throughout. EPC Rating AWAITED.

SHILTON PARK £190,000

We are excited to be marketing this two bedroom first floor property in Carterton. Finished to a high standard. .

£

SHILTON PARK £245,000

Pretty Cotswold Stone terrace family home located on Shilton Park. With local shops and primary School nearby this really is a perfect family home. EPC Rating C.

SHILTON PARK £299,995

A well presented middle terraced town house located on 'Shilton Park'. Set over three levels this versatile property really would make the ideal family home. EPC Rating C.

SHILTON PARK £300,000

SOLD ON THE 6 WEEK CHALLENGE

Three bedroom end of terrace home on the edge of the popular Shilton Park development. With garage and private parking. EPC Rating AWAITED.

CARTERTON £460,000

Larger than average detached bungalow with the added bonus of a one bedroom annex. Located in a popular Road close to all local amenities. EPC Rating AWAITED

The Clyde £POA

Beautifully designed family four bedroom detached home with double length driveway and garage.

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WITNEY

Park Road — Offers in Excess £600,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this 4 bedroom detached chalet style property in North Leigh. Built in 1986 this property consists of 4 bedrooms one of which has its own access and stairs, a garage, off road parking, spacious accommodation over two levels and a landscaped rear garden with a detached workshop. EPC: D

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Manor Road — £260,000

A well presented family home situated in a sought after location within Witney. This two bedroom family home briefly comprises of an entrance hall, lounge and kitchen. From the first floor landing there are two spacious bedrooms and a family bathroom. EPC: C

Beechgate — £200,000

ATTENTION INVESTERS & FIRST TIME BUYERS

Fantastic opportunity for first buyers and investors to purchase this two bedroom top floor flat situated in he centre of Witney. This spacious flat includes a fully fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom with economy 7 storage heaters throughout. There is one allocated parking space. EPC Rating: C

Thorney Leys — O.I.E £265,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this well presented three bedroom terraced property, over three levels on the popular Thorney Leys development. Internally the property offers a living room, very spacious kitchen/diner, three bedrooms with two family bathrooms. EPC Rating: E

Station Road — OIEO £364,950

Situated in the heart of Brize Norton this four bedroom detached house comprises of a lounge, recently fitted kitchen, dining room, downstairs cloakroom and integrated garage. Upstairs there are four good sized bedrooms. Outside boasts a well maintained rear garden and a front garden with driveway parking for up to three vehicles. EPC Rating: D

Queen Emma's Dyke — £375,000

ATTENTION TO PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

Unique opportunity to purchase this extended link detached house on a corner plot close to Witney town centre. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of this extended property and the scope for further improvement and development. EPC Rating: B

Dark Lane — £420,000

A beautiful family home situated in a sought after location in Witney. The property has been kept to the highest standard and benefits from a modern fitted kitchen a lounge which looks onto the beautifully matured rear garden. EPC Rating: D

Church Street — £360,000

A fantastic period cottage, located in the sought after village of Shipton-under-Wychwood. This family home boasts a spacious living room with an open fireplace, a kitchen diner and a generous rear garden. EPC Rating: D

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OXFORD

Greater Leys — £285,000

WELL PRESENTED two bed terrace in a quiet cul-de-sac. Garage and parking in a block, front and rear gardens, two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, gas central heating and fitted combination boiler. Ideal for first time buyers.

EPC Rating: C

Blackbird Leys — £320,000

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 28TH JAN

Own Driveway & Garage, EXTENDED to the front giving a larger than average lounge. White Gloss Fitted Kitchen, dining room, three Bedrooms, white bathroom suite. NO ONWARD CHAIN. Cul De Sac On Edge Of Estate, solar panels. Must View, Call 01865 748448

EPC Rating: E

Blackbird Leys — £275,000

WELL PRESENTED family home benefiting from light refurbishment and spacious accommodation, three bedrooms

large rear garden with double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating: E

Rose HIll — Guide Price £270,000

This WELL PRESENTED modern TWO bedroom property is situated within the ring road. Built in 2009 and is still in a very good condition making it an ideal purchase. EPC Rating: C

Rose Hill — Offers Over £265,000

Positioned on a CORNER PLOT this TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY requires updating and offers potential to EXTEND subject to planning. EPC Rating: F

Cowley/Headington — £225,000

Generous flat ideally situated within walking distance to shops and local amenities. Ideal for first time buyers and investors alike & offered with no onward chain. EPC Rating: D

Greater Leys — £239,950

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 28TH JAN

A TWO BEDROOM mid terraced home in a quiet cul de sac on this popular estate is offered for sale with NO ONWARD CHAIN.
Priced to reflect the updating required..... call us now to arrange a viewing (01865) 748448 miss it and miss out....!!

EPC Rating: Awaited

Cowley/Headington — £180,000

TWO BEDROOM FLAT beautifully designed for over 55's & offering 'Extra Care' on site. Great amenities within the development which include a restaurant, residents lounge and convenient transport links. 75% Shared Ownership.

EPC Rating: C

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OXFORD

Cowley — £425,000

EXTENDED end terraced property presented to a high standard throughout. Offering an attractive family home with potential for further development (subject to planning). Two reception rooms, three bedrooms, conservatory, cloakroom.

EPC Rating: D

Kennington — OIRO £575,000

MODERNISED throughout this substantial detached bungalow sits on a larger than average plot. Rarely available to market, the property boasts a large kitchen and conservatory with reaching viewings over the generous garden. Offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN.

EPC Rating: Awaited

Oxford — £435,000

GENEROUS family home benefiting from rear extension and newly converted loft. Viewing advised as work to improve the property is on going.
EPC Awaited

Blackbird Leys — £425,000

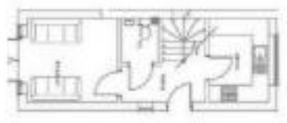
Substantial property ideal for large family or investment. Furbished to a GREAT STANDARD, currently arranged to allow seven bedrooms.
EPC Rating: D

East Oxford — £380,000

CHARMING Victorian terrace which has undergone refurbishment, offering a WELL PRESENTED internal finish.

EPC Rating: D

Cowley — £350,000



A SPACIOUS new home offering one bedroom and study, built to a high specification and located in the sought after area just off Westbury Crescent.

EPC exempt

Cowley/Headington — Offers in Excess £290,000

This THREE BEDROOM mid terraced is fully double glazed and gas central heating throughout. Located on the Cowley/Headington borders. Accommodation offers: - entrance, fitted kitchen, lounge/ dining room, utility, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate toilet. Viewing's by appointment.

EPC Rating: C

Littlemore — £325,000

THREE BEDROOMS NO ONWARD CHAIN. Mostly Double Glazed. Gas Central Heating. White Good Incl. Cul De Sac Location In Littlemore. Ideal Family Home Which Only Requires General Decorative Updating. Newly Installed Shower Room. Off Street Parking. Must View. Vendor Open To Offers.

EPC Rating: E

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HEADINGTON

Marston £450,000

Three bedroom extended family home in this highly regarded side road situated within the Cherwell School catchment area. Offered with no onward chain this property has both a garage and off street parking.

Risinghurst £475,000

Available with no onward chain, this light, airy and spacious home is finished to a good standard. With balanced accommodation over two floors this property would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity.

Headington OIE £650,000

Presented in excellent order throughout, this unique property has substantial living space over two floors and an extensive mature garden. Suitable for extension (subject to planning) and conveniently located for access to local amenities and transport links

Headington £400,000

A well presented three bed family home well situated for the John Radcliffe Hospital & access to city centre in Colterne Close. Cherwell catchment area and good transport links, please call us to book your viewing.

Headington OIRO £500,000

Building Opportunity. A detached house set on a large plot with huge potential. Well placed for the John Radcliffe and close to the new development at Barton Park.

Tackley £450,000

With flexible accommodation over two floors this unique property is located in the sought after village of Tackley. A self contained annexe provides versatile accommodation that can be used as a separate flat or incorporated into the main house

Marston Road OIRO £440,000

Prime Marston location within the Cherwell catchment area providing easy access to the A40, JR Hospital and Brookes University. A 1930's property providing accommodation over two levels with a larger than average garden, with the potential to extend (STP).

Headington OIRO £215,000

Beautifully presented one bedroom ground floor flat with modern bathroom and fitted kitchen, this property would be ideal for investors and first time buyers. Book your viewing today.

Marston Road £475,000

Providing easy access to both Headington hospitals and Oxford city centre this house would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity

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THAME

Brill £600,000

A fabulous 3 bedroom detached period cottage that has been extensively modernised, upgraded and extended by the current owners to create a quintessential 'cottage in the country' in this sought after local village. This charming home combines contemporary living with an old English village feel and offers a wealth of features.

Longwick £525,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this marvellous large four bedroom semi-detached home located in the popular village of Longwick with countryside views to the front of the property. This home provides spacious accommodation with a good size gated driveway and large back garden.

Chinnor £320,000

A well presented two bedroom semi-detached home, built by Taylor Wimpy Homes c. 3 years ago that would make an ideal first time purchase.

Long Crendon £375,000

This mature three bedroom detached family home offers spacious and airy accommodation and is centrally located within the popular village of Long Crendon. Prospective purchasers should note that no onward chain is involved and that the owners selling agents can strongly advise an early internal inspection.

Thame £575,000

A four bedroom detached family home located in a small cul-de-sac of similar properties on this popular residential development. The property offers larger than average accommodation with separate reception rooms, full en-suite bathroom along with a south facing rear garden and a double width garage.

Thame £475,000

This lovely family home has been newly extended and renovated to a high internal specification by a local builder, using local craftsmen and is offered for sale with no onward chain.

Chinnor £530,000

A mature five bedroom detached family home that has been successfully extended in a location with manicured corner plot gardens that enjoy a southerly aspect.

Waterstock £700,000

Lovingly refurbished and maintained by its current owner, the property is offered for sale with; a "farmhouse" kitchen, two well proportioned reception rooms, feature fireplace, exposed beams, mature and enclosed gardens along with off street parking.

Haddenham £550,000

This spacious accommodation is arranged over 3 floors, with en-suite shower rooms to 2 of the bedrooms along with attached garage and enclosed rear garden. Prospective purchasers will note that no onward chain is involved with the purchase of the property.

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Oxford property values increase by 2.88 per cent - good or bad news?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Even the Brexit vote has not hindered Oxford's steady rise in property values. Last month alone Oxford property values went up 2.88 per cent, leaving them 6.79 per cent higher than a year ago.

So why, given Brexit, the coalition of 2010-15, a double-dip recession and post credit crunch fallout, has the Oxford property market remained so strong, still 20.1 per cent higher than 20 months ago?

The Oxford housing market is built on the foundations of basic rules that any GCSE economics student should understand.

Even the wary Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) said most of its surveyors anticipated house prices to increase in the coming six months, which seems contradictory given economic cautions from the chancellor Philip Hammond and The Bank of England.

Nationally the starting point is a strong base of low unemployment, low inflation and low interest rates, while in Oxford, the local economy continues to perform well.

Confidence also plays a part, but the fact is, there is a strong long-term relationship between property values, wages and unemployment.

As a country, we are in a good place. Whilst Oxford remains one of England's least affordable property markets, demand for homes continues to far out-strip supply, and until the supply increases via new house building and new private rental supply, the market will continue to be buoyant.

By April 2017, Article 50 will be invoked. This will bring further doomsday press commentary, polarised political opinion and short term crises of confidence.

It is likely to prove a challenging couple of years, and yes, Oxford property values might rise less reliably during 2017, but based on what we know of the UK plc now, the UK and Oxford property values are not projected to move that much over 2017 or 2018.

Going into the next two years, we are in much better financial shape as a country compared to 2008, and since then Oxford house prices have risen reliably – last year they were up 6 per cent again.

Confidence will continue to be the key player in the Oxford housing market for a while longer – Oxford and its home owners need to look for the positives, stay confident and continue to invest in long-term assets.

Four-bedroom home on offer in Wantage

• *From front page*

room and dining room.

The living room has a bay window to the front, wooden flooring, radiator and an open fireplace, and a separate dining room with a window to the rear, an open fireplace, wooden flooring, radiator and door to under stairs storage cupboard.

The kitchen has a window to the side, a range of wall and base units, single drainer sink unit, space and plumbing for automatic washing machine, space for cooker, wall mounted boiler and a door out to the rear garden.

There is a ground floor bathroom with a window to the side, white suite, heated towel rail, and electric shower over the bath.

To the first floor are two bedrooms, the master with two windows to the front, while the second bedroom has a window overlooking the garden. Both have a feature fireplace.

To the second floor are two further bedrooms - bedroom four is currently a walk through room to bedroom three.

The rear garden has a shingled area with gated side access with a path leading to the front. There is a lawned rear garden with mature hedging providing an excellent degree of privacy.

To arrange a viewing or for further details, contact Davis Tate Wantage on 01235 772670, or email wantage@davistate.com.

Spain's laidback lifestyle lures second home buyers

The average person born in Spain today can expect to live to the ripe old age of 83.3 years according to the latest data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Home to more than 15,000 people aged over 100 years, Spain officially has the second best life expectancy on the planet, just behind Japan. In comparison, those that live in the UK and Ireland have a lower average life expectancy than most of Western Europe and Scandinavia, at 81.4 years.

The main reasons suggested for Spain's impressive life expectancy are the more relaxed lifestyle, keeping active and strong family connections.

Marc Pritchard, sales and marketing director for homebuilder Taylor Wimpey España, said: "The relaxed lifestyle of sea, sunshine and siestas is what draws many Brits to Spanish shores.

"Life here is very different from the UK; there is greater focus on quality living, getting out and enjoying the natural environment and regularly taking the time to share good food with friends and family.

"That's not to say that this way of life comes at the cost of 21st century living – far from it. Here in Spain we enjoy every technology available in the rest of Europe and operate some of the most successful companies in the world. It's just about balance."

Indeed, a lower cost of living and higher amount of paid leave than in the UK make finding that balance between work and play easier in Spain, not to mention the Mediterranean climate which offers significantly greater inspiration to keep fit and healthy year round

For those lured by the laidback Spanish lifestyle, Taylor Wimpey España has a range of superb properties in a variety of prime locations to choose from.

Panorama Mar for example is Taylor Wimpey España's newest front-line development, situated on Punta Prima Beach in Torrevieja on the Costa Blanca.

This private residential complex offers an array of two and three bedroom apartments, all designed for both comfort and convenience.

Each apartment in the first phase is south facing and therefore come with spacious terraces and stunning views over the Mediterranean Sea.

With prices starting from €234,000, every Panorama Mar resident will be able to use the three communal swimming pools and Jacuzzi facility, as well as being granted direct access to the beach promenade.

Whilst being an area of natural beauty, situated right on the waterfront, Punta Prima also has excellent transport links. The San Javier Airport in Murcia is only a 30-minute drive and Alicante's International Airport is just 45 minutes away with regular direct flights to a choice of UK airports.

Securing the right tenant is about so much more than their job title

Eagle-eyed readers of the news may have seen a story recently that suggested the UK's largest private landlord was refusing to let properties to victims of domestic violence, or plumbers.

Of course, such headlines are intended to shock and cause controversy, but here at Andrews, we like to look at things differently and use them as an opportunity provide reassurance and clear guidance.

So, whether you're a millionaire, a plumber, someone looking to move on after the breakdown of a relationship or even a snake-charmer, we believe that by engaging with a reputable lettings agent, you'll find your ideal next home – after all, if we've found you the ideal home, that will mean we've found our landlords the ideal tenant.

And that's really at the heart of it. If you're a landlord with a top spec, quality home to let and it's priced appropriately, then we'll find you a tenant who appreciates the quality on offer; will respect and look after your investment; and importantly be able to afford the rent.

A landlord with a more basic or run-down property to let, on the other hand, will attract a tenant will lower expectations and a smaller available budget – that doesn't mean they're a bad tenant though, just a different one.

We advise landlords that they need to have a clear vision in place for what their long-term plan with a rental property is and to remember that when negotiating a new rental agreement. It's often advisable to wait an extra week and get the right tenant than to make a rushed decision and chose the wrong one!

But what makes a 'right' tenant versus the 'wrong' tenant boils down to a lot more than their job title or personal circumstances – if, indeed, these factors have any part to play.

A lot does, of course, boil down to the expertise of the lettings agent to read and judge the needs of the prospective tenant and match these against the properties on offer by their landlords.

However, considering issues of affordability (can the tenant truly afford the rent?), eligibility (do they pass the Right to Rent checks?) and personal reputation (have they looked after previous rental properties?) are all areas that need to examined. If these all stack up, then does it really matter what their job description or marital status is?

So, whether you're a landlord wanting to secure the 'right' tenants for your property, or a tenant looking for your new 'ideal' home, pop in to your local Andrews' branch or visit andrewsonline.co.uk.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

The Empire strikes back in Oxford

By James Richings

WHAT happens when you combine Star Wars, hyperactive dancing and heavy metal music?

You get one hell of a show.

So whatever you're doing on Wednesday, February 15, cancel it as Galactic Empire will be arriving at the O2 Academy.

Made up of lead guitarist Chris Kelly as Dark Vader, guitarists Mike DeMaria as Red Guard and CJ Masciantonio as Shadow Ranger, Grant McFarland as Boba Fett on drums and bassist Carson Slovak as Bass Commander, the group will make their Cowley Road debut next month with the show expected to be a sell out.

"Any fans of Star Wars, cosplay or even just fans of heavy music can all expect a performance that has something for them," Chris told the Guardian.

"The iconic music of John Williams paired with the costumes, light show and a heavy metal twist is an enjoyable experience for audience members of all ages."

The launch of the band came about after the drummer Grant McFarland uploaded a video of himself on YouTube playing along to the Imperial March in July 2013.

• Galactic Empire in action - Star Wars meets heavy metal

Receiving thousands of views, Chris decided to expand on his cover version by adding guitars to the arrangement, which saw DeMaria and Masciantonio join the project.

Still missing that last piece to make their cover versions perfect, the musicians then included bassist Slovak and Kelly to the band, which saw the birth of Galactic Empire.

In the years that followed, the band have slowly grown into cult figures with Star Wars fans across the globe.

Their lively and immature videos on YouTube have proved to be a big hit, with their rendition of the famous theme tune gaining three million views.

The soon to be released self-titled debut album, which is due to come out at the start of next month, is also expected to go down well with fans.

And even though the band have only done one live show together, they hope their Oxford fans will remember this show for years to come, as they slowly make a name for themselves.

Chris also believes that patience was key to the band's recent success.

"We all grow up with a specific image in our minds of how our success might pan out," Chris said.

"The most important thing to remember is to take opportunities when they come.

"You can hang onto your ultimate goal, but sometimes the steps to it aren't what you'd imagine.

"I certainly never thought my success would begin playing guitar in a Star Wars band, but it's some of the most fun I've had in years and I'm happy to have ended up where I am.

"So don't ever be short sighted or narrow minded."

Suitable for over 14s, tickets cost £11.25. Doors open at 6.30pm.

If you have a forthcoming event and wish to advertise it in one or more of Taylor Newspapers titles including this one please call 01235 511700 where we will be pleased to help.

For press releases about forthcoming events please email events@taylornewspapers.co.uk - (photos welcome) - specifying the area that the event is taking place in and we will do our best to promote it for you, space permitting, in one or more of our newspapers.

Thu, Jan 26, 7.30pm
Old Fire Station, Oxford
HOPE & SOCIAL
Hope and Social are a band who do things a little bit differently. They wear blue jackets and play mind-blowing, balls-to-the-floor, anything-for-a-laugh, much-more-for-a-tear, heart-on-your-sleeve, foot-on-your-monitor gigs.

Fri, Jan 27, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
The UK's No1 Tribute, fronted by respected singer/songwriter Clive John, with The Spirit Band, re-create with astounding accuracy and truly capture the essence of what it was like to be at a real Cash show! Featuring Amanda Stone as June Carter and two more talented ladies as the Carter Sisters, all aspects of Cash's life are covered with impeccable taste.

Sat, Jan 28, 2pm
Cumber Village Hall. Cumber
JUMBLE SALE
Raising money for Diabetes UK. For more information call 01865 327819.

Sat, Jan 28, 2.30pm
Kenton Theatre, Henley
BYE BYE BABY
From their beginning in the early 1950s, when Frankie first joined the group, this tribute show celebrates the greatest hits from the West End and Broadway Smash Hit Musical, such as Beggin; Big Girls Don't Cry; Walk Like A Man; Lets Hang On; Who Loves You; December '63 (Oh What A Night); Bye Bye Baby; Can't Take my Eyes off You; Fallen Angel and Grease, climaxing with the finale of a medley of their greatest hits.

Sat, Jan 28, 2.30pm
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
BRR! THE STORY OF THE PENGUIN WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE COLD
Brrr! is the touching tale of Steve, an Antartic Penguin who doesn't much like the cold. Come on a magical journey as we join Steve on his adventure to visit his cousins in sunny South Africa. But how will he get there? It's too far to waddle and Steve can't fly. Thankfully Steve has a Ukulele, and the help of some wonderful friends, including a rather strange creature who falls from the sky right into his garden.

Sat, Sat 28, 7.30pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
LEE NELSON – SERIOUS JOKE
After getting into trouble for sneaking into places he shouldn't, Lee Nelson is back where he most definitely should be: live on stage with his brand-new, laugh-outloud, best ever stand-up show. Come and experience Lee's Work in Progress; a unique opportunity to see him perform some brand new material in an intimate venue for not much money, before it's any good!

Sat, Sat 28, 7.30pm
Old Fire Station, Oxford
THE ANTI SLAM
The Anti-Slam returns to Oxford for its fourth glorious year. Contrary to a conventional slam, where the poet with the best poem and most authentic performance is judged the winner, the Anti-Slam crowns the worst poet with the lowest score as its champion.

Sun, Jan 29, 6pm
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
PHIL BEER
Phil Beer is the multi-instrumental half of the award winning acoustic duo, Show of Hands, described as a true craftsman, a master musician and consummate performer. With a professional career of over 36 years, Phil has a great deal of material to draw on for his solo appearances. All are songs and music of memory and significance sung in the subtle and melodic Phil Beer style and interjected with musings and amusings to an almost personal audience.

Mon, Jan 30 – Sat, Feb 4
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
STEWART LEE: CONTENT PROVIDER
Following his BAFTA-winning TV show Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle, Content Provider is Stewart's new full-length show, the first since the award-winning Carpet Remnant World. Stewart Lee is one of the UK's most accomplished writers and performers. When only 22, he won the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year award. He co-wrote the audacious Jerry Springer: The Opera, which won four Olivier Awards. And he's recently won the Best Male TV Comic and Best Comedy Entertainment Performance at the British Comedy Awards.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Wrap up warm and enjoy penguin show

By James Richings

THE cold British weather is something that we're used to – and it doesn't look like it will be leaving any time soon.

So you'd think an animal like a penguin would love the nippy climate.

However, there is one arctic creature who absolutely hates the chill and that's Steve the Penguin.

So find out what's making Steve feel glum when the cold weather comes about when Brr! The Story of a Penguin Who Doesn't Like the Cold, arrives at The Theatre Chipping Norton this Saturday, January 28.

Produced by the award-winning Basingstoke based theatre company Proteus, Marketing Manager Samantha Lowin told the Guardian where the inspiration for the production came from.

"The show was inspired by a real life penguin I met at the Isle of Wight zoo," she said.

"It was a particularly cold day when I visited with my family and all the penguins were enjoying the weather except for one who seemed to be incredibly cold and miserable – I felt he must have a story, and Steve the penguin was born!

"The programme for the show is also a storybook and there is a free audio download available to accompany it."

The show went on a short UK tour at the back end of last year where it received rave reviews from families, as the show includes a lot of audience interaction and a number of visual effects which are implemented to try and keep the children's attention on the show, just in case they were to get distracted and not watch the performance.

Samantha strongly believes the show will leave a lasting impression on audiences, no matter their age.

"We get so much back from an audience – when an audience is really enjoying a show it becomes a conversation," she said.

"We have made the show from scratch, improvising and working together on ideas.

"That in turn means that there is a lot of room for the actors to 'play' with an audience, for them to be able to react to what the audience is responding to – this means that every show is completely unique."

She added: "As a parent myself I want to enjoy watching theatre or film aimed at my children as much as they do, so I understand the importance of entertaining the adults too.

"After all they are the ones that buy the tickets. There is a lot of humour in the show, and so far adults have really enjoyed it."

Suitable for children ages over three, the production will run for 70 minutes.

It will start at 2.30pm and tickets cost £8.50.

Visit http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com/ for more information.

• Actress Emma Vickery (Picture by Pamela Raith)

Serious about jokes

COMEDY: Stand-up comedian, presenter and actor Lee Nelson will be arriving at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot this Saturday, January 28.

The entertainer, whose real name is Simon Brodkin, will visit the Station Road venue as part of his, 'Serious Joker' UK tour.

The show will begin at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15.

Go behind scenes

THEATRE: The New Theatre, Oxford, will be running backstage tours for the public on Saturday, February 4.

The tours will allow theatre-goers to see what happens backstage at the venue on performance days as well as learning what happens during rehearsals.

Tickets cost from £5 to £8 and the tours start at 10.30am.

Jammin' in the city

LIVE MUSIC: A tribute to Bob Marley will take place at the O2 Academy in Oxford this Saturday, January 28.

DJ Robert Netsa Dub will play a number of the late musician's tunes, on Monday, February 6.

Tickets cost £7.05 and the gig will start at 8pm.

A great vehicle for comedy

By James Richings

ONE of Britain's most successful comedians will be returning to the Oxford Playhouse from Monday, January 30 to Thursday, February 2.

Stewart Lee has been a regular visiter to the Beaumont Street venue for many years and the 48-year-old arrives in the city as part of his, Providing Content UK tour, following the huge success from his previous show, A Room with a Stew last year.

But his visit to the city comes after his highly popular BBC 2 show, Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle was cancelled in April last year after four series in seven years.

He insists the two are completely different though.

"The tour and show are very different.

"Comedy Vehicle was four series of six 30 minute, self-contained sets.

"This is one two hour through line, although I've had to keep the ideas and structure a little less rigid than usual to cope with the sudden surges in news events.

"There is also an apparently meaningless set which is actually very subtle and cleverly linked to the themes of the show in a way which becomes clear over the evening.

"It is made entirely from the second hand DVDs of other stand-up comedians, none of which I paid more than 10p for.

"Other comedians' DVDs are currently the cheapest building material in the world."

As well as creating the Comedy Vehicle, Stewart also wrote the multi-award winning theatre production Jerry Springer: The Opera.

The production was nominated for seven Olivier Awards in 2004, winning four of them.

Stewart has won other awards including the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year in 1990, which effectively launched his comedy career.

And even though that he has publicly announced that he has never really enjoyed the fame his job has bought him, Stewart revealed the soul purpose of continuing to do comedy.

He is now in his 28th year of touring the country doing stand up.

"Duty to the kids drives me forward," he said. "And it's all I can do.

"I write more material than any other comparable stand-up, and I cover a lot of ground on the tours every year, but I am getting worn out.

"I started writing the new show in June and then Brexit happened and obviously you can't not mention it but I found myself staying awake for about a week trying to work out what was going on so I could work it into the set.

"In the end I realised nothing was going to change that fast and backed off a bit.

"Brexit and Trump have made comics' lives hard though.

"How people are behaving is beyond satire, so what do you satirise?"

Stewart also announced that when he was touring the country as part of his warm up shows last year, he became unwell and spent some time in hospital.

"I got bitten by a spider during the previews of this new show and ended up in hospital for a week," he said.

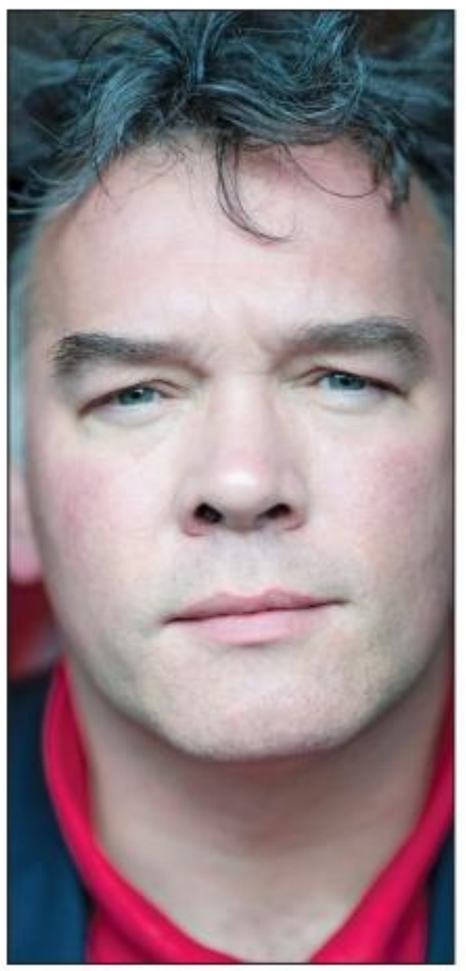
"They knew what it was at A&E immediately – a false widow.

"They came to the south of England about a hundred years ago but the winters normally kill them off.

"However, because of climate change there is a population explosion and a lot of people are getting bitten.

"Donald Trump and Paul Nuttall need to tell the spiders there is no climate change and then maybe they'll stop biting everyone."

Tickets cost £23.



• Stewart Lee (Photo by Rich Hardcastle)

A United Kingdom

FILM NIGHT: A movie that focuses on the relationship between the King of Botswana and a white English office worker will be screened at the The Theatre Chipping Norton on Saturday, January 28 and Monday, January 30.

Starring Oxford actor David Oyelowo as Sir Seretse Khama and Academy Award nominated actress Rosamund Pike, A United Kingdom focuses on the struggles their relationship and marriage had, as their interracial relationship was not approved by either of their families.

Tickets cost £9 or £7 for under 16s. Both screenings start at 7.30pm.

Two plays in one

THEATRE: One of Arthur Miller's most famous plays will be performed at the Burton Taylor Studio from Tuesday, January 31 to Saturday, February 4.

Two Way Mirror which was written in 1982, is made up of two different Miller plays in one, with Elegy for a Lady taking place in the first act and Some Kind of Love Story in the second.

The inspiration for both plays is thought to have come from Miller's marriage to actress Marilyn Monroe.

All performances starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5.

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Sat 4th Feb • £5 adv • 10pm
Pablos Presents Back 2 Back

Sat 4th Feb • £8 adv • 11pm
Fluid Featuring Holy Goof

Tue 7th Feb • £15 adv • 7pm
Loyle Carner

Thu 9th Feb • £14 adv • 7pm
Little Comets

Thu 9th Feb • £12 adv • 11pm
AJ Tracey

Fri 10th Feb • £8 adv • 7pm
Uprising - BBC Introducing
Loud Mountains, Low Island, Luke May, Tilly Valentine, Stolby

Sat 11th Feb • £11 adv • 6.30pm
Cash (A Tribute to the Man in Black)
+ Hannah Clapham

Sat 11th Feb • £15 adv • 10.30pm
Noisia
+ Ivy Lab

Monday 13th Feb • £14 adv • 7pm
Kate Nash

Thu 14th Feb • £14 adv • 7pm
Ladyhawke
+ ISLE

Wed 15th Feb • £10 adv • 6.30pm
Galactic Empire
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Tue 21st Mar • £8.50 adv • 7pm
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Wed 22nd Mar • £27.50 adv • 6pm
Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

Thu 23rd Mar • £16.50 adv • 7pm
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Fri 24th Mar • £8.50 adv • 6.30pm
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Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

Happy New Year: celebrating old age with the Chinese Rooster!

'When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.' Mark Twain

As we grow older we generally become less physically able. Yet while our bodies become less strong, we continue to build knowledge and experience, and ageing isn't just a biological process – it's also a cultural one. Different societies around the world have very different attitudes to growing older and these perspectives can have a huge effect on our experience of getting older.

While youth is fetishized in the Western world and spotting the physical signs of one's own ageing process in the mirror is regarded with sadness, many cultures around the world take a positively celebratory approach to advancing years: they believe that valuing life means giving appropriate regard to all stages of it, and they venerate their elders, honouring and respecting the experience and learnings they have accumulated. In ancient Rome, for example, the city's elders were a precious resource providing advice on issues from investment of family money to intra-family conflicts, marriage, traditions, and ambitions, and their word was often final in settling disputes.

The Confucian principle of filial piety, named after the Chinese philosopher and teacher Confucius (born 551 BCE), is a fundamental value dictating that one must respect one's parents and show respect and deference to all older individuals. Confucius believed that this principle was both key to the building of a good society and the root of humanity itself. His way of thinking became the official imperial philosophy of China for several dynasties and its legacy is still apparent in China today.

It's Chinese New Year this weekend, on 28 January, and according to Chinese astrology, a person's destiny is foretold by the positions of the sun, moon and planets in the sky on the day they are born combined with the year in which they are born: the Chinese have a twelve-year cycle of years, each represented by a different animal: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig and The Rooster!

Apparently, people born in the Year of The Rooster have three lucky numbers: 5, 7 and 8. Their lucky colours are gold, brown and yellow, and they also have two lucky flowers, the gladiola and the cockscomb. Roosters, apparently, are active, popular, courageous and confident. They are also loyal and honest but can be too talkative and because they enjoy being the centre of attention! They are punctual and in the days when people had no alarm clocks, their crowing was significant in societies as the starting point of the day.

Roosters include all those who will celebrate their 96th, 84th, 72nd, 60th, 48th, 36th, 24th and 12th birthdays over the next year as well as babies born from this Saturday until 15 February 2018.

Although everyone born a Rooster may have a tendency towards this animal's stereotype (which could be much debated), surely every Chinese animal grouping will be bursting with individuals rich in varied personality traits, likes and dislikes who aren't defined by their position in the Chinese calendar. And in just the same way, however old a person becomes it is not their age or an animal in the stars that defines them: it is their unique character, their experiences and the life they have lived, and that's something worth celebrating loud and clear.

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With St Patrick's day in March, there are lots of ways to include an Irish theme.

Make a harvest knot to wear on your wedding day, or place one in your bouquet to symbolize your Irish heritage. Have a Ceilidh with traditional Irish dances.

Wear Irish Lace,and serve a traditional Irish Wedding Feast. Give Celtic-inspired gifts marked with the claddagh (two hands and a heart),Give love Tokens of Hair - they're symbolic of acceptance.

Cherry Blossoms

Cherry blossoms stand for virtue and new beginnings .Have a thick layer of flower petals carpeting the aisle For centrepieces, use compact flowers like hydrangeas or peonies with crystal-beaded willow for dramatic height, and scatter petals generously.

Hand your bridesmaids parasols, or fans. Coordinate all your gowns with beautiful, rich brocade sashes. To add a bit of glow, hang round paper lanterns from the ceiling.

Butterfly

A springtime bride might pair butterflies with blossoming branches and pastel petit fours, wear pretty silver and rhinestone jewellery sets. Have the groom wear a single fabric butterfly in his buttonhole.

Dress flower girls in wings and carry a white satin petal basket that's filled with butterfly petals instead of the usual rose petals.

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The changing face of men's wedding attire

As we welcome in the New Year, many freshly engaged couples post-Christmas, will start to make the first tentative steps to planning their wedding. One aspect of this will be the wedding suits. 2017 looks like it will carry forward some the trends starting to emerge in 2016. I am expecting to see the following trends to increase in popularity:

• The return of the bow tie. We started to see the rise in popularity of the bow tie in 2016, and this trend is set to continue into 2017. The bow tie offers a contemporary edgy look, when paired with a nice lounge suit, and works particularly well with the ever popular tweed wedding look.

• Braces – the return in popularity of the bow tie, has also been mirrored in the rise in demand for braces. When paired together, the groom is able to achieve the ever popular country, vintage look that is proving so popular at the minute.

• Tweed – 2015 and 2016 saw a sharp rise in demand for tweed suits. As barn weddings grew in popularity so too did the country tweed look. We have seen a large increase in the demand for lighter weight tweeds, suitable for wearing for summer weddings, as well as plain herringbone tweeds, for grooms looking to wear tweed, but not wanting to look like they have just stepped off the shooting ground.

• Slim fit Blue Lounge Suits – 2016 saw a surge in demand for brighter blue lounge suits. This look is likely to prove popular in 2017 also. We expect to see more wedding parties opt for a two piece lounge suit with a contrasting waistcoat rather than a matching three piece suit.

• Brown Or Black Shoes – As sartorial rules on brown shoes seem to be relaxing, 2017 Is no doubt going to see the continued rise in demand for brown wedding shoes. Both brown brogues and boots will continue to grow in popularity, as more people opt away from formal wedding attire adopting the more relaxed look of lounge suits and tweed suits.

At the Cotswold Tailor we regularly change our stock to keep up with changing consumer demands. In march we launch our new luxury tailored fit, blue lounge suits, ready for this summer's weddings, as well as stocking one of the largest collections of tweed wedding suits for hire in the county

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As time goes by the supply of headwear for weddings has definitely become an all year round feature for Louise Claire Millinery. They have seen a sharp increase in the number of weddings in autumn/winter 2016 along with many new venues coming on board. Spring/ Summer 2017 is already proving to be a busy time for hiring and selling hats for wedding ceremonies.

The clients continue to appreciate the availability of the wide range of hats and fascinators over 1000 pieces to choose from for both sale and hire. All of which are sourced from a variety of suppliers to give the best possible range.

One thing that does set Louise Claire Millinery apart is the bespoke service. All pieces are hand made in the workshop in Wallingford. The personalised bespoke service involves very close consultation with the client working with various fabrics and designs. Often leading to individual hat blocks being created to suit the design.

In the first quarter of this year Louise will launch her own collection of unique hand blocked pieces, from which the client will be able to choose from a variety of styles and colours. All pieces will be made and produced in Wallingford. This will give the client the opportunity to have a variation to suit then but still remain exclusive. Along with Louise Claire Millinery's own collection they are pleased to also be providing a collection from an independent milliner based in London within the next month. A collaboration that Louise Claire Millinery is very excited about.

All of this will enable Louise Claire Millinery to provide an even more enhanced and varied service for events such as Royal Ascot, which is already proving to be busy since the invitations for the Royal Enclosure went out earlier in January.

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Renegade 2.0 MultiJet II

By **Tony Yates**

IF you said to a group of your friends you were thinking about buying a 'Jeep' - most of them would immediately say 'why are you buying something the Army used to use' – and you would then need to spend the rest of your life telling them that we no longer live in 1943 and that the Jeep you are referring to is a modern vehicle for the modern motorist.

So when I was recently offered the chance to give the New Jeep Renegade the full work down I was more than happy to oblige.

POWER AND EFFICIENCY:

The Renegade was fitted with a140bhp 2.0 MultiJet II diesel engine that is punchy, brisk and actually quite refined – which is partly thanks to the 350Nm of torque it has available. The engine also feels very much alive and this has only added to the excitement of driving the Renegade.

Top speed is 113mph along with a decent 0-62 time of around 10sec. Fuel economy is also rather good considering its size – and on the combined cycle I achieved 47.2mpg which was actually mostly done on urban roads.

ON THE ROAD:

The Renegade was also fitted with a 9-Speed Automatic gearbox with the addition of 4WD functionality. On the tarmac it actually feels really good, and on the farm tracks on the outskirts of Staffordshire, it just kept on going and there really was very little to complain about.

Remember, this is not a Range Rover, but it does have an ability to do on and off-road rather well and I was really impressed. Although I fear most Renegade owners will never actually take their car off-road.

I am going to say though that I found the ride to be a little too soft, but the Renegade happily gets a move on when the need arises and on the motorway it was reasonably quiet, so I am happy to forgive it for not being completely perfect.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Renegade for some may not be the prettiest looking car – but it does offer fun and functionality – which is what 'Jeep' ownership is all about.

Then again, you will either love or hate its quirky looks. Yes, it is a bit boxy and in your face, which was the first impression I got when it arrived on my drive - although my views soon changed and I have grown to like it quite a lot actually.

Some of the standard equipment on the Renegade comes in the form of: Ambient Light (LED), forward collision warning-plus mitigation and Lanesense™, plus Lane departure warning, rear parking sensors, all speed traction control, Start & Stop, 6 Speaker audio system, 6 Airbags, Dual zone climate control, Premium instrument cluster with 7" colour TFT display, Uconnect 6.5" DAB radio with touchscreen, satellite navigation and Bluetooth ® and cruise control.

TO SUM UP:

The Renegade is not a one size fits all – but saying that neither is a pair of trousers. Price from: £28,295.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 28.0 (10.1) - 74.3 (3.8). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 88.3 (3.2). Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 167 - 89.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results. Retail sales only, subject to availability for vehicles registered between 01.01.17 and 31.03.17 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% APR Representative Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all Mazda2 and 2017 Mazda3 models. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: Mazda2 75ps SE, OTR from £12,595. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£660). 2017 Mazda3 120ps SE, OTR from £17,795. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£670). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Calls to 0844/0845 numbers will be charged at 7 pence per minute plus your standard network charge. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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Models Shown: Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC Manual in Sunset Orange at £16,145 On The Road (OTR). CR-V Black Edition 2.0 i-VTEC 4WD Manual in Crystal Black Pearl at £30,000 On The Road (OTR) including £500 customer saving applied to the original OTR price of £30,500. Civic SR 1.8 i-VTEC Manual in Passion Red Pearl at £22,890, On The Road (OTR) including £1,000 customer saving applied to the original OTR price of £23,890. Terms and Conditions: Ordered from 01 December 2016 to 31 January 2017 and registered by 31 January 2017. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. Honda Deposit contribution: £500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic petrol models purchased through Honda Aspirations. *0% APR representative Honda Aspirations (PCP): Maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Excess mileage charge includes VAT at current rate. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Johnsons Cars Limited are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, EmpireCourt, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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For many, December is viewed as the anti-season - a kind of negative un-time that exists only in relation to a torrent job market. On the contrary, that road to Damascus moment for fresh applicants may arise in early 2017 through vigour, impetus or even impulse! However for many others brimming with innocent expectation and verve about their chances for securing the perfect job, will be swallowed by expectation.

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Banbury get the Blues as eight-game unbeaten run is halted

By Adam Flinn

BANBURY RUFC's eight-match unbeaten run was brought to an end in disappointing fashion as they were comfortably beaten 31-7 by Newbury Blues on Saturday.

Only three South West 1 East matches survived the icy weather at the weekend, but the clash between third and fourth went ahead as planned.

Although the Bulls had been on a good run, so had Newbury as they had triumphed in their previous five fixtures going into this clash.

However it was Banbury that had the best of the early exchanges in Saturday's match, and they went ahead as Freddie Cracknell scored under the posts, with Ed Phillips converting.

Little did they know at the time though was that would all they would get on the board, as the Blues controlled proceedings from there on.

It didn't take long for Newbury to equalise, as Toby Thorne ran down the wing for a try, with Nick Wackwitz kicking the extras.

The rest of the first half was relatively even and both sides went into the break level on seven points.

But it was all about the Blues in the second half, and shortly after the restart Dan Thorne put the Blues in front with the home side's second converted try.

And he was also responsible for try number three after diving over underneath the posts, followed by a successful conversion.

One more try was needed for the bonus point, but it would take the Blues until the dying moments of the match to get it, with Cameron Golby-Barr touching down.

And for good measure, he got another one almost immediately afterwards to complete the 31-7 win for the Blues.

Banbury stay fourth despite the defeat, but are now a massive 22 points behind Newbury in third, while they are level on points with fifth-placed Old Centralians having played one game more.

• *Banbury struggled to maintain their recent good form against Newbury Blues on Saturday*

And it is Old Centralians who Banbury host this Saturday.

Elsewhere at the weekend, Oxfordshire's other teams' matches didn't survive the cold weather, as Grove and Witney's derby game was called off, as was Oxford Harlequins home tie versus Royal Wootton Bassett.

All three will be hoping for a game this Saturday, as Grove host Maidenhead, Harlequins travel to Swindon, and Witney are at home to Reading Abbey.

Women's side boosted by £8k grant

OXFORD Saints have received nearly £10,000 from a funding body to help its women's team develop before their first contact tournament this year.

The Saints have run a men's team for over 30 years but only launched a women's team in May 2016.

Following an application to Sport England, Saints have welcomed a Sport England Small Grant of £8,440.

The grant money will be used for helmets, shoulder pads, uniforms and other training equipment to help them develop and prepare for their first contact tournament next month.

• *Oxford Saints' women's side has received a funding boost Picture: Oxford Saints*

Club chairman Graeme Taylor said the club is "delighted" to have been awarded the grant.

He said: "We have been very fortunate to have such a great group of ladies come together and join the Saints family, and securing the funding needed to get them started with contact football is a just reward for all of their efforts."

"We are looking forward to getting the team kitted out and can't wait to see them in their first Sapphire Series tournament [next month]."

To attend a training session with the Oxford Saints Women's team, email women@oxfordsaints.com or message the club through facebook.com/oxfordsaints.

Kearns to lead rugby side

CONOR Kearns has become the first Irishman to captain Oxford University's men's rugby side for over two decades by being named skipper for the 2017 Varsity Match campaign.

The 23-year-old full back takes over from Fergus Taylor and becomes the first Irishman to captain the Dark Blues since Tyrone Howe in 1995.

Speaking on his appointment, Kearns said: "It is a privilege and an honour to be elected as captain of OURFC for the coming Varsity campaign.

"When you look at the people who have gone before you and the tradition that is steeped in the club, it is a great source of inspiration."

He added: "I'm massively looking forward to the season ahead.

Oxford University lost their first Varsity Match since 2009 last month as Cambridge University ended their six-year hoodoo, recording a 23-18 triumph at Twickenham.

Kearns was expected to lead the side for the first time against the RAF at Iffley Road last night.

• *Conor Kearns*

Saints placed in Southern Central

OXFORD Saints now know their competition for the upcoming season after the British American Football Association (BAFA) confirmed the 2017 league structure.

The Saints won all of their matches last season to win promotion to Division 1 – the second tier – and will play their 2017 campaign in the Southern Football Conference Central (SFC1 Central).

Division 1 is divided into four conferences of five teams, and Oxford's SFC1 Central opponents will include Ouse Valley Eagles, Solent Thrashers, South Wales Warriors and Sussex Thunder.

The director of competitions at BAFA, Russ Hewitt, confirmed that a 10-game season is still being planned which means that, alongside home and away games against the Eagles, Thrashers, Warriors and Thunder, the Saints will also play two cross-conference games.

Division 1 playoffs will be regional this year. Qualifying teams will play against opponents in the same division (either north or south) before the Division 1 Final, which will be the southern champion against the northern champion.

Oxford chairman Graeme Taylor said: "Everyone at the Oxford Saints is looking forward to our first season back in Division 1.

"With the new division alignments, we have a perfect opportunity to test ourselves against some excellent programmes.

"The opportunity to face new opponents, as well as rekindle some old rivalries with Solent and Sussex, who my first game with the Saints was against, is something I'm sure all Saints fans will relish."

The 2017 Division 1 season dates are yet to be confirmed but the new campaign will get under way in April.

RL searching for new recruits

OXFORD RL are to run a taster day as their development squad seeks new recruits.

The Blues want to run a development team for the 2017 season to play against League 1 reserve sides.

The plan for a second team comes as the club wants to build on the successes of local players such as Sean Morris, Luke Evans and Andrew Hoggins, who have gone on to play for the 1st team in League One.

The club said it is looking to build a strong Oxford squad with locally based players for the future, with the development team set to train alongside the 1st team with the opportunity to earn a 1st team contract.

As such, Oxford RL are inviting players aged 18 to 23 to their development day next month.

Registration will commence from 9.30am with the session starting at 10am and running until around 11.30am on February 18 at Tilsley Park in Abingdon.

Head of development Chris Baxter said: "We are looking for good quality players with the desire to progress in professional sport."

Email rugbyleagueinspires@oxfordrl.com for more information.

Banbury move into play-off spots after home win

By George Welch

BANBURY United propelled themselves into the Southern Football League Premier Division play-off places for the first time this season with a narrow home win against lowly St Neots Town.

Striker Conor McDonagh bagged a brace as the Puritans came from behind to win 2-1 at The Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on Saturday.

McDonagh converted either side of half-time to lift United to a season high of fifth place and extended the north Oxfordshire side's unbeaten run to nine games.

But Banbury were made to work hard for the three points as St Neots took the lead against the run of play on 22 minutes.

Former Southend left back Johnny Herd, who has played against Chelsea in an FA Cup tie at Stamford Bridge, launched a long throw into the box and Jevani Brown struck the ball low into the corner of the net to put the visitors ahead.

The first half developed into an equal affair but it was Banbury who scored the all-important next goal three minutes before the interval when Mark Bell lifted the ball through to McDonagh down the left and the United striker finished competently.

Two minutes into the second half and United were in front when good work by James Smith down the right by-line saw the West Bromwich Albion loanee cross low into the centre where McDonagh was on hand to score his second of the game, this time from close range.

Two minutes later, substitute Zac McEachran put McDonagh through and he shrugged off the attentions of the St Neots defence before firing narrowly over the bar.

The visitors went close to equalising when Declan Rogers shot just over the bar from the edge of the area, but Banbury defended their lead valiantly to secure the win.

The Puritans looked to consolidate their play-off position on Tuesday night, but the home match against high-flying Chesham United was abandoned just before half-time due to fog.

Mike Ford's men travel to fourth place Merthyr Town, who sit one place and two points above Banbury, on Saturday.

• *Banbury United players celebrate: Picture: E.A.Barson Photography*

North Leigh's valuable point

A DEPLETED North Leigh side earned a valuable point at second-placed Evesham United on Saturday to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Leigh's defence sustained serious pressure from the promotion hopefuls, but a valiant defensive display secured a point for the west Oxfordshire side in a 1-1 draw.

The point was extra valuable for Millers boss John Brough, whose side was missing a number of players through sickness, injury, work commitments and suspension.

The Millers matched their opponents attack for attack and on 18 minutes, to the surprise of the large crowd, they took the lead.

Jamie Cook picked up possession on the right side of the Evesham penalty area before laying the ball back to Lance Williams who, running in, hit a crisp shot into the far corner to beat Evesham keeper Kevin Sawyer.

The Robins hit back strongly with a series of corners but, despite their domination, struggled to break down North Leigh's backline.

But just as the Yellows thought they would take their lead into the break, Evesham finally breached the visitor's defence a minute before half-time.

Garyn Preen, who has attracted a lot of interest from higher level non-league clubs, finally beat Manny Agboola with a fine left foot strike from 15 yards that rocketed into the bottom corner.

The second half saw wave after wave of Evesham attacks but Brough's side held firm for a valuable point as tempers flared in the closing stages.

North Leigh's match at home to Mangotsfield on Tuesday was postponed.

Many matches hit by weather

FREEZING conditions and swirling fog has plighted Oxfordshire's football schedule this week.

Dozens of football matches at all levels were postponed due to the wintery conditions.

Oxford United saw their Checkatrade Trophy quarter-final tie against Bradford City at the Kassam Stadium postponed just minutes before kick off on Tuesday evening. This has been rescheduled for this coming Tuesday.

Division One South & West side Didcot Town had both their Saturday and Tuesday home matches against Shortwood and Taunton postponed.

While Banbury United and North Leigh's matches went ahead at the weekend, they both had last minute abandonments on Tuesday.

Oxford City, Kidlington and Ardley also had games called off.

Pepperell struggles to last spot in Abu Dhabi

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell had a tournament to forget in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship last week, finishing bottom of the pile on nine over par.

Pepperell – who turned 26 on Sunday – struggled on the course on both days to record rounds of 76 and 77 to end Friday 126th and last.

He had got off to a good start last Thursday as he birdied his first hole after starting at the 10th, but followed up the rest of the round with four bogeys, a double bogey, and only one more birdie.

Things didn't get any better on Friday, with a mixed first nine holes which included three bogeys and two birdies.

A run of four pars followed, before three consecutive bogeys and a double bogey in the final five holes sealed his position at the bottom of the table, and he missed the cut by 10 shots.

It was the second week in a row Pepperell had finished outside the top-100, after coming tied-121st at the South Africa Open on January 12 and 13.

At the top, Englishman Tommy Fleetwood won with a score of 17 under, one shot ahead of Pablo Larrazabal and Dustin Johnson.

• *Abingdon golfer Eddie Pepperell*

London Welsh kicked out of Championship

• *Picture: Martin John*

FORMER Oxford-based rugby union side London Welsh have ceased to exist as a professional club after being refused permission to stay in the Championship by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

The Exiles were granted a temporary licence on December 22 to play their last two league games after going into liquidation last month.

But the RFU says the Old Deer Park club have not met the conditions required to extend that licence.

In a statement released yesterday, London Welsh said they are "extremely disappointed" by the RFU's decision on Tuesday to expel the club from the Greene King IPA Championship.

They spent three years playing at the Kassam Stadium and were a Premiership side as recently as 2015 when they lost all 22 games.

The statement said: "The club has worked very closely with Nigel Melville, Ian Ritchie and Angus Bujalski of the RFU for a number of months to meet the criteria for a permanent licence.

"The club will begin dealing with the ramifications of yesterday's announcement, before deciding whether to respond further."

A spotless performance as Rochdale hit for four

By George Welch

OXFORD United produced their best performance of the season to end high-flying Rochdale's run of 10 straight league wins at home with a resounding 4-0 victory.

Two goals either side of half time from four different United goalscorers empathically fired the U's to a memorable victory on Saturday in what was a buzzing United performance the away fans will recall for a long time.

Dale last suffered a league defeat at their Spotland home in a 1-0 loss to MK Dons on August 20 and Keith Hill's side had won their last 10 on home soil, a run that had extended back to September 17.

But the Yellows, who have now lost just once in seven away matches in all competitions, were in ruthless mood against a side that have been in the play-off places since November.

With Joe Skarz returning from injury, head coach Michael Appleton made one change and three positional adjustments from the previous weekend's 2-1 defeat at AFC Wimbledon.

While left back Skarz made his first league start for two months by replacing Alex MacDonald, Marvin Johnson was restored to his more familiar role as a winger.

As a result, top scorer Chris Maguire replaced MacDonald on the right and Rob Hall was pushed up front alongside Ryan Taylor as Appleton sprung a tactical surprise.

And the former Portsmouth, Blackpool and Blackburn Rovers manager's tactical changes paid dividends as first-half goals from Johnson and Hall and an overhead kick from Taylor and a first Oxford goal for Ryan Ledson after the break smashed Dale's wonderful home record to pieces.

Johnson blasted Oxford into the lead on 18 minutes when his cross-cum-shot from the left-hand side of the box took a slight deflection on its way post Rochdale goalkeeper Conrad Logan for his third of the season.

And Johnson was instrumental in doubling United's lead on the half hour mark by turning provider, marvellously backheeling the ball into the path of Hall, who tapped in from close range for his second in as many games.

Rochdale threatened at the start of the second half through playmaker Ian Henderson, but Oxford secured the points on 53 minutes.

From a Hall corner, Taylor smashed home his fourth of the season to make it 3-0 to the visitors.

It was the former Rotherham striker's fourth of the season but his first league goal since November 2015's home win against Cambridge.

And the rout was completed in style by former Everton trainee Ledson, who pounced on a loose free kick from goalkeeper Logan, took a neat touch and fired home from 40 yards to score his first career goal on 73 minutes.

The win moved Appleton's side up one place to 12th in SkyBet League One, eight points and just in touch of the play-offs.

• Ryan Ledson scores the 4th goal in Oxford United's 0-4 win against Rochdale
Picture: Steve Daniels

Spanish youth star signed

• Toni Martinez
Picture: OUFC

OXFORD United have bolstered their front line by signing West Ham United and Spanish youth striker Toni Martinez on loan until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old forward started his career at Valencia before a £2.4m move to West Ham last year.

The former Spain under-17 international earned his transfer to the English top flight after scoring more than 100 goals for Valencia's youth teams. And he has been in great form for the West Ham Development scoring 12 goals from 11 games.

United head coach Michael Appleton said: "He has a terrific scoring record and is very highly thought of at West Ham so it is great that clubs think of Oxford United as a club where we help nurture talented young footballers and help their development."

Martinez told the club's website: "This is a great opportunity at a very good club.

"It is an important step for me and one I am really looking forward to."

Pair in line for friendly return

OXFORD United have been boosted by the return to training this week of defenders Christian Ribeiro and Sam Long.

Ribeiro suffered a serious ankle injury in the final pre-season training session back in August and has yet to make a start for the U's while Long has been out for a number of weeks with a hamstring problem.

The defensive duo could be in contention for a friendly against Canadian side Vancouver Whitecaps at the end of this month.

Head coach Michael Appleton told the club's website: "They have both made good progress and it's good to see them back out in training.

"With Christian it is still at the early stages and it is going to take a while before he is back in contention.

"We won't put too many time scales on either him or Sam for a full return but we do hope to have them involved in some way."

• Oxford United defenders Christian Ribeiro and Sam Long
Picture: OUFC

First player re-signs as Oxford's captain leaves 'club she holds dear'

• Kat Nutman
Picture: OUFCW

OXFORD United women's captain Kat Nutman said she will 'always hold the club dear' after leaving the club, bringing an end to her three year stay.

The centre-midfielder joined United from the USA in 2013 and helped the Us achieve their highest finish in WSL in 2015.

She was also voted Oxford's Player of the Season for her contributions to the community.

Nutman scored one goal in 11 games in the 2016 season.

She said: "Oxford United has been a fantastic home for me for three years, and I will always hold the club dear.

"My life and career is now taking me away from Oxford, but I will always be thankful for the years I have spent as a player here.

"I would like to thank the fans, players and all the staff both at Oxford United and at Northcourt Road for all of their support over the past three seasons.

"I wish the Us the very best in the coming season."

Meanwhile, defender Jess Frampton has agreed a new deal with the U's, making her the first player to re-sign for the U's as they prepare for a new league in the new year.

Frampton, 25, was virtually ever-present last season, playing 19 times after joining from Portsmouth.

She said: "I'm delighted to have been given another opportunity to play with a team I know supports me.

"I can't wait for us all, as a team, to better ourselves in the upcoming season and show what we are really capable of.

"We were a little bit frustrated with where we finished this season, but I'm genuinely blessed to be where I am and wear the yellow shirt.

"I wouldn't change it for anything, regardless of our results."

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More Sport inside: Football: Oxford United sign Spanish youth star from Hammers | Golf: Nightmare start to 2017 for Eddie Pepperell

Faz – 'Very special' FA cup tie with The Toon

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of Oxford United fans will flock to a sold-out Kassam Stadium this Saturday to watch the U's entertain Premiership-bound Newcastle United in the FA Cup 4th round.

But United first team coach Derek Fazackerly will have more reason than most to be 'up for the cup' this weekend.

Saturday's game against the Magpies will see 'Faz', who joined Michael Appleton's backroom setup in 2014, up against a club where he enjoyed tremendous success alongside Newcastle great Kevin Keegan in the 1990s.

Ahead of the eagerly anticipated cup-tie, the 65-year-old said: "I had six years up there and four were very special.

"It's a fantastic football club. We had success there, taking them from the lower reaches of the Championship into the Premier League and into Europe.

"It was a fantastic experience."

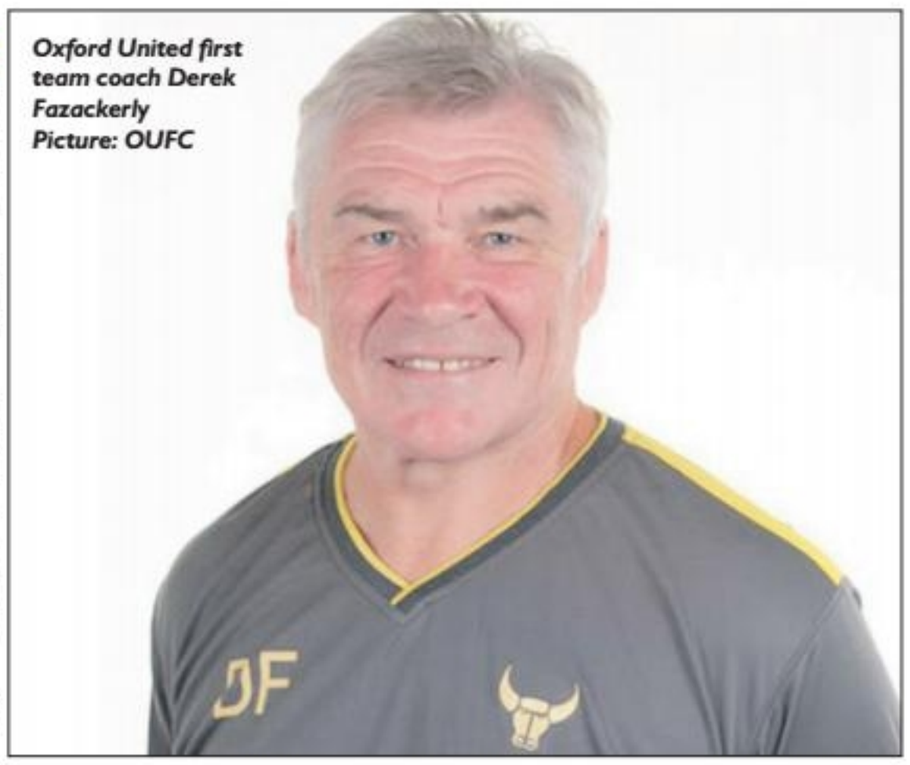
And Preston-born Fazackerley, who followed Keegan to become part of the England set-up in 1999, still has praise for his old club.

He said: "It's a different set up in terms of players and staff but it hasn't changed as a club.

"They still have magnificent fans and a great stadium and training facilities.

"It's a club with huge potential and from a footballing perspective I'm sure getting back into the Premier League will be their main priority."

Fazackerley has also coached Blackburn, Bolton, Barnsley, Huddersfield and Leicester and scouted for former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson at Manchester City.



Oxford United first team coach Derek Fazackerly Picture: OUFC

And Fazackerly believes the cup competitions can help the U's in much the same way that a win over Swansea in the FA Cup and a Wembley final in the Trophy did last season.

He said: "The cup competitions gave us momentum last year and there is the possibility they could do that again this year.

"For every club in the FA Cup it's a great day for the fans and we will be hoping to replicate what we did against Swansea [last year]; put in a good performance and hope it can get us a result."

The tie will see a full house at the Kassam Stadium, with the last ticket of the sold out fixture sold at 10.30am on Friday.

Speaking before Tuesday's called-off game against Bradford City in the Checkatrade Trophy quarter-final, he praised the under-fire competition, despite its revamp and dwindling attendances.

He said: "The competition has been good for us. It has given us an opportunity to use players that maybe haven't had too much football and when they have come in they have performed well and put other players under pressure.

"That is precisely what you want when you are in the situation we are in at the moment."

U's give Dale what four!

• Striker Ryan Taylor scored his first league goal of the season in Saturday's away victory at Rochdale as the U's pulled off their best performance of the season to win 4-0 See match report on p87 Picture: Steve Daniels

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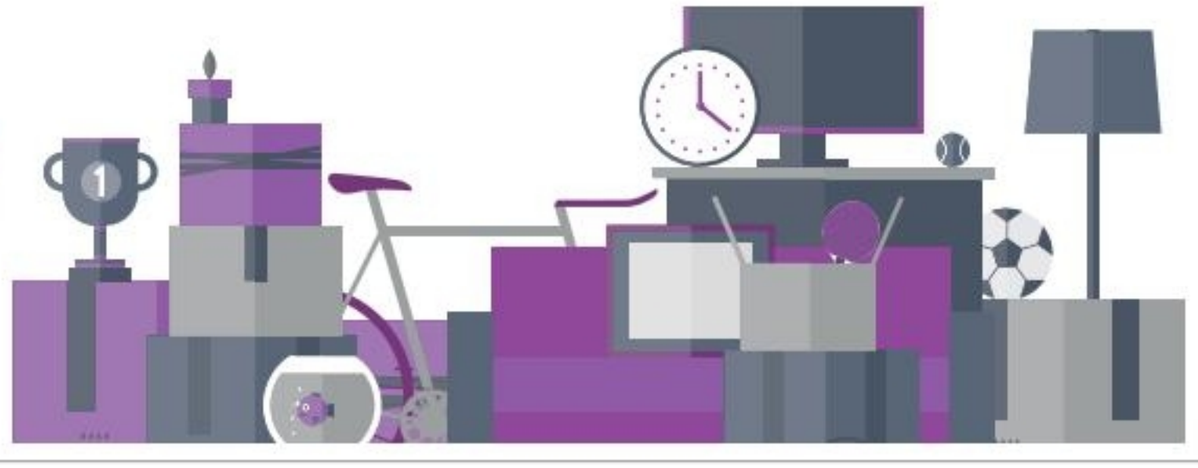

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